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DOUBLE JEOPARDY KILLER CONVICTED

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ISSN 1753-121-7



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Picture: Iain Stowe

IN A BUZZ OVER ORCHID

A rare orchid which attracts bees has been discovered at a water treatment site near Maidstone. The delicate flower, which has the Latin name *Ophrys apifera*, has a distinctive flower which resembles a bee in order to attract the insects and pollinate.

The unique orchid takes between five to eight years it flowers a single time. Full story on page 4

■ BY ANNA WHITE

A FORMER Maidstone United footballer has been sentenced to 23 years in jail for killing his ex-girlfriend six years after he was found not guilty of the crime.

Mario Celaire was cleared of battering Cassandra McDermott to death in 2001 by a jury at the Old Bailey in London after he said he had left her "alive and well".

Six years later Mr Celaire confessed he had killed Miss McDermott to his new girlfriend, Kara Hoyte, before he attempted to murder her as well in February 2007.

Because he had been cleared of murder and manslaughter of Miss McDermott, 18, it was a case of double jeopardy where he could not be tried twice for the same crime.

But the prosecution lawyers appealed to the Court of Appeal for the law to be scrapped and the case re-opened.

Celaire was sentenced to a minimum of 23 years at the Old Bailey. He is the first person to be convicted since the double jeopardy law was changed in 2005 which allows a trial to be re-opened if there is "new and compelling" evidence.

Celaire had changed his name to Mario McNish and was playing for Maidstone United Football Club before he was arrested for hitting Miss Hoyte with a hammer, causing her substantial brain injuries.

Miss Hoyte was left paralysed and barely able to speak, but through writing she was able to describe her ordeal to the police.

In a letter to her attacker read out at the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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3 Gillingham defender Simon King talks about returning for pre-season training. Search 'Gills' at Yourkenttv.co.uk

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Commuters urged to help keep service

■ BY ANNA WHITE

COMMUTERS who travel outside Maidstone to avoid its sluggish train journeys to London are being urged to help campaigners keep the off-peak fast services.

Earlier this year Southeastern Railway bosses announced plans to scrap the off-peak fast trains from Ashford International to London Cannon Street, as the services did create enough demand.

In retaliation a group of angry commuters launched the Keep Our Trains campaign to block the plans and has since recruited more than 1,000 supporters.

The campaign's leaders met with Lord Adonis, Minister in charge of the Department for Transport, on Tuesday, June 30 to present the petition and challenge him to stop Southeastern's plans.

Felipe Alviar-Baquero, of Keep Our Trains, was joined at the meeting by Maidstone and Weald MP Ann Widdecombe, Mid Kent and Faversham MP Hugh Robertson and Sir John Stanley, MP for Tonbridge and Malling.

Southeastern bosses were approached to attend the meeting but declined.

Mr Alviar-Baquero said: "The Minister is now going to look at the facts and figures, and our petition, but we need to put together a survey from commuters showing the demand for the service and the hidden demand."

To show the hidden demand for the off-peak fast services the campaigners will need to speak to commuters who already travel away from Maidstone to other stations, such as Sevenoaks, which has faster links to central London.

He added: "We need people who travel outside of Maidstone, West Malling and Kings Hill to contact us



HIGH SPEED: Maidstone commuters would like to see a faster service to London

and say why they travel elsewhere so we can put forward our case.

"We asked Southeastern to help us carry out the survey but they flat-out declined so we can only hope that people will come forward and help us."

Ms Widdecombe said: "The Minister didn't give too much away but he was responsive to the evidence of user demand for the service."

"As Sir John Stanley said, the current surveys were drawn up seven years ago—we now need new ones."

"If the plans go ahead, people will start to use the roads more to travel to other stations to get to Cannon Street."

"It will be very serious for Maidstone as people chose to live along that line to commute to the city and if the service is scrapped they will be left with a very slow service to Victoria."

If you can help the campaign please send an email to kent@keepourtrains.com or visit www.keepourtrains.com

yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

Town's projects to defy credit crunch

COUNCIL chiefs are pushing ahead with their multi-million-pound projects to help Maidstone make it through the credit crunch.

Mote Park was awarded a £2.5million lottery grant for maintenance work and to improve the facilities.

The Maidstone Museum's east wing project has been given a £2million pound lottery grant.

The council's most extravagant project is £4million pound High Street regeneration scheme.

For details of the projects visit www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk.

Phone fault cleared

PHONE lines in Maidstone are back to normal after people complained they were eavesdropping on other people's conversations.

BT received calls from customers with the 01622 area code from Wednesday last week reporting problems with their phone lines.

A BT spokeswoman said the problem was fixed during the early hours of Friday morning. She added: "We apologise to our customers for any inconvenience caused by the fault."

Fund-raisers praised

TWO delivery companies which raised more than £900,000 for disadvantaged youngsters have been praised by a children's charity.

The Larkfield-based DPD and Interlink Express joint depot raised thousands of pounds to buy 56 Sunshine Coaches to take the children out on trips.

The two firms have been awarded the top international honour for corporate support from the Variety Club.

Bankers help hospice

BANK workers got on their bikes last week to raise funds for charity.

Customers at HSBC bank in Maidstone town centre on Friday would have seen members of staff peddling away on gym bikes donated by Mote Park Leisure Centre and others armed with donation buckets.

They raised £718 for Demelza House children's hospice.

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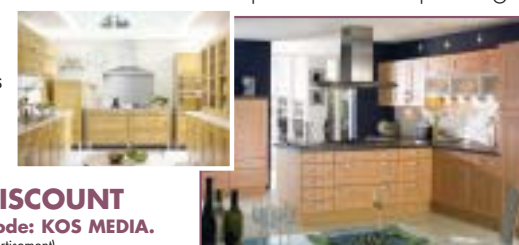
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Weller rocks festival with guest star Daltry

■ BY LAURENCE MOZAFARI

ROGER Daltry made a surprise appearance during Paul Weller's headline set, on the final night of Kent's biggest music festival.

The duo blasted out The Who classic Magic Bus, in one of the highlights at the Hop Farm Festival in Paddock Wood last Sunday.

Several thousand people attended the festival, now in its second year, which included a harmonica performance from Tunbridge Wells local, Daltry.

The Modfather, Weller culminated his set with a real crowd-pleaser, A Town Called Malice, one of the biggest hits from his punk-rock outfit, The Jam.

Festival director Gill Tee, from Wrotham, said: "The organiser, Vince Power, always seems to have something up his sleeve."

"It was a great example of families and youngsters enjoying the special festival feeling."

Other headline acts included the Editors, The Fratellis, Pigeon Detectives, Ladyhawke and Brit Award-winners Florence and the Machine.

The promoters shocked music fans

when they began giving away a pair of weekend tickets worth £250 with flimsy raincoats worth £10.

Around 8,000 tickets were given away with the generous promotion, which raised funds for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

The festival chiefs denied claims that the special offer merely allowed them to get rid of unwanted tickets.

However some music fans were very disgruntled, having paid the full price £125 ticket price before the promotion.

Empire

The festival avoided any sponsorship; branding or VIPs.

Several thousand festival-goers attended the second annual Hop Farm festival.

Organiser of the festivals, Vince Power, has amassed a huge music empire over the last 25 years, thought to be worth around £60 million.

Mr Power established the Mean Fiddler in 1982 and has overseen festivals like Glastonbury, Reading, Leeds and Homelands.

His upcoming events include the highly-anticipated Benicassim festival in Spain, with massive headliners: Oasis, The Killers and Kings of Leon.



MODFATHER: Paul Weller was joined on stage by Roger Daltry, of the Who

Stars cook up a storm at castle

VIEWERS tuned in to BBC One last week to see four celebrities attempt to impress guests at Leeds Castle with their culinary skills.

The Celebrity Masterchef semi-finalists, presenter Jayne Middlemiss, Casualty actor Ian Bleasdale, former Coronation Street actress Wendi Peters, who played Cilla Battersby-Brown, and British Olympic athlete and 400m UK record holder Iwan Thomas MBE, each cooked one of the four courses for the 12 diners at the castle.

Dinner guests included the host, Leeds Castle chief executive Victoria Wallace, chairman of the Kent Agricultural Society George Jessel, former restaurateur Sean Wallace and commercial catering director Sarah Miller.

Ms Wallace said: "It was a fantastic evening and a really great meal worthy of Leeds Castle – it was amazing."

Cracking down on road litter

A NATIONAL campaign is being launched in Maidstone in a bid to crack down on littering motorists.

Maidstone council is taking part in a month-long campaign to tackle the problem of drivers throwing litter from their vehicles and polluting the environment.

The Keep Britain Tidy campaign aims to reduce the amount of litter dumped on the roads each year – which the Highways Agency claim is currently 700,000 bags of rubbish.

To spread the word in Maidstone, the council will be in The Mall Chequers shopping centre, on Thursday to launch the scheme and give away car stickers and T-shirts between 10am and 4pm.

Killer jailed for 23 years

FROM FRONT PAGE

hearing, Miss Hoyte, said: "I stand here for you to see what you did to me."

"I don't hate you, I pity you. I will get better with each day and stronger. I am still the same determined and strong person."

In a victim statement Miss McDermott's mother, Jennifer McDermott said: "Kara has shown immense courage to see this process through of telling her story but also of the confession that Mario made to her of killing Cassandra."

Celaire was charged of attempted murder in December 2007, but instead of standing trial he entered a guilty plea for Miss McDermott's manslaughter and attempted murder of Miss Hoyte – which was accepted by the prosecutors.

Celaire beat Miss McDermott until she was unconscious in Norbury, south London, in November 2001, where he left her to choke on her own vomit.

But despite evidence that Celaire made no effort to help his victim, the original jury cleared him of the charges.

Speaking outside the Old Bailey, Miss McDermott's sister Andrea, said: "We knew Mario killed Cassie. Today we have been vindicated."

Plan to keep traffic on the move at county showground

ORGANISERS of the Kent County Show have devised a plan to avoid a repeat of the traffic chaos that tarnished last year's event.

But organisers, Kent Agricultural Society, admitted that they had underestimated the popularity of the event last year when thousands of motorists complained about having to queue for hours when leaving the showground.

In a bid to avoid similar traffic jams over the weekend of July 17 to 19, Kent Police, the Highways Agency and other partners have devised a plan to minimise traffic problems.

Society chairman, George Jessel, said: "We are working very closely with Kent Police to make sure the traffic flows much better this year."

The previous year's congestion was put down to a system of temporary traffic lights, road works and cones that blocked off U-turn junctions.

Police and Highway officers say there will be no right turn out of Scragged Oak Road, between 6am

and 7pm on all three days, and all traffic will be required to turn left and go towards the M2.

The traffic lights at Stockbury will be turned off from 3-7pm, and there will be two sets of traffic lights on the A249.

Sgt Alan Rogers, of Maidstone police tactical command unit, said: "Police patrols will be present in the showground and the Mid Kent area motorbike team will monitor the A249 and traffic hotspots."

"Organisers have provided additional stewards."

"We would ask drivers to be patient and considerate to other motorists and nearby residents."

David Goff, general manager of the Kent Showground, said: "The central control room on the showground will be controlled by Kent police, Kent Highways, APG Traffic management and showground representatives."

Tickets for the show can be bought at www.kentshowground.co.uk or by calling the ticket hotline on 01622 633060.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Mayor takes to river to count up town's swans

THE Mayor of Maidstone took a cruise on the River Medway last weekend to carry out the annual swan count.

Cllr Peter Parvin fulfilled his first count since taking office in May with the help of Hampstead and Yalding Cruising Club, and the Maidstone Sea Cadets, on Saturday.

The privilege of owning the swans between East Farleigh and Hawkwood was granted by James I's Charter to Maidstone of 1619.

Volunteer rewarded for service to Kent Life

A TOP family attraction has presented one of its longest serving volunteers with an award to thank her for 14 years of service.

Marion Pring started volunteering at Kent Life, formerly Museum of Kent Life, in July 1995, managing the company's accounts.

She was presented with a piece of glassware specially designed by stained glass artist, Annie Ross.

Teacher wins £1,000 in a minute with Heart FM

A GERMAN teacher from Maidstone has become the first person to win £1,000 in 60 seconds with newly-launched Heart FM.

Caroline Wibberley, a teacher at Homewood School, in Tenterden, answered ten questions on Heart's Breakfast show with James Hemming and Gemma Shepherd on Thursday morning.

She became the first person to complete the Thousand Pound Minute since Invicta FM re-launched as Heart last month.

Journalist's memoirs are subject of discussion

JOURNALIST Dame Ann Leslie will be in Maidstone next week to talk about her recently-published memoir.

Ms Leslie will discuss Killing My Own Snakes, in which she talks about how she became the first female foreign correspondent, at the Trinity Foyer, on Tuesday July 14. The visit is part of the Guardian Hay Festival in association with Oxfam Bookfest. Tickets cost £5 from the Oxfam Bookshop in Gabriels Hill or from www.hayfestival.com.

Napoleon's chair found at museum

■ BY ANNA WHITE

MUSEUM workers have stumbled across a chair believed to have belonged to Napoleon Bonaparte while rummaging through stored items.

The mahogany bergere chair had been on display in the Brenchley Room at Maidstone Museum until it was put into storage in 1996 and forgotten about.

It was re-discovered by the staff during preparations for the museum's East Wing extension – where it will take pride of place when the build is complete.

Documents have been found backing up its authenticity, including an article in the New York Times in 1911 on Napoleon's chair being housed at Maidstone Museum.

The chair was specially-made for the diminutive French leader.

Maidstone council's cabinet member for leisure and culture, Brian Moss, said: "The

chair is in good condition apart from its cane seating, which will need restoring.

"There is also damage to the right of the chair, which was allegedly caused by Napoleon scraping it with a knife.

"It has a really interesting story and it will soon be on display in the East Wing extension."

According to the museum's accession register, the chair, which dates back to the 19th century, was donated by former councillor Alexander Randall in about 1866.

Mr Randall was instrumental in the foundation of the museum and was responsible for various objects making their way to the museum in St Faith Street, including the much-loved Lady Godiva statue.

The chair was originally brought back to England by the Reverend Richard Boys, who was then Chaplain to the Governor of St



Picture: PHIL HOUGHTON

EMPEROR'S SEAT: This chair, believed to have belonged to Napoleon, is at Maidstone Museum

Helena – the island in the South Atlantic to which Napoleon was exiled following his defeat in the Battle of Waterloo in June 1815.

The chair was donated to Maidstone Museum via Mr Randall when Rev Boys, who subsequently went on to become the Vicar of Loose, died.

Cllr Moss added: "This is one of many interesting things we have found while packing the stores ready for the East Wing development.

"It's an exciting time for the museum as we prepare to display all of these finds once the extension is complete.



Rare orchid creates a buzz

A RARE orchid which attracts bees has been found at a water treatment site near Maidstone.

Bee orchids have been found at several South East Water sites across the South East.

These include the water treatment works in the Maidstone area and reservoir sites in Sussex.

The delicate flower, known as *Ophrys apifera* in Latin, has a distinctive flower which resembles a bee in order to attract the insects to mate and help pollinate the plant.

The plants grow up to 50cm tall with seven to ten purple flowers.

The unique orchid is hard to come across

because they may only flower once in their lifetime, and take five to eight years before they bloom at all.

To encourage more orchids to grow at the South East Water sites the grounds maintenance team, and the contractor Nuture, complete a careful mow regime throughout the summer.

Richard Dyer, South East Water's senior environmental officer, said: "We were delighted to find several bee orchids not just at one site, but across our region, demonstrating that the hard work of our grounds maintenance team is paying off."

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"Excellent well run Show" - GSE Holdings

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TREASURED: Ben with his Piper Club, which he intends to fly at the War and Peace show later this month

Warbird will be back in skies at military show

A RARE wartime aircraft will take to the skies again in front of thousands at this year's War and Peace show later this month.

The tiny Piper L4H Club was used in the Second World War and will be flown at The Hop Farm's annual event by owner Anthony Bendkowski.

Mr Bendkowski, who is known as Ben, is a director and shareholder of Rochester Airport, where the aircraft is kept.

Speaking of his treasured plane, which he bought two years ago, he said: "She was used as a spotter plane for the American artillery in Italy. The two-man crew would have flown very low to seek out targets.

"Their main danger was being hit by shells from their own guns, which often flew above them.

"It's sheer magic to fly. It takes off and lands in less than 200 yards and can fly really slowly so you get a clear view of the ground. In a head wind she almost hovers.

"The Club is so light one person can push her into position on the ground. There are no electrics and you start her by swinging the propeller."

The L4H was converted from the original civilian Piper Club, an aircraft designed to make flying affordable. The main modifica-

■ BY ANNA WHITE

tion is extra glass in the cockpit canopy to increase visibility.

Mr Bendkowski and his family have been regulars at the War and Peace show for the past six years. They usually exhibit ground-based vehicles, such as a rare Dodge weapons carrier, a GMC truck and a Jeep.

This will be the first year he has been airborne at the popular event.

Mr Bendkowski, who has been a pilot for 30 years, said: "I always wanted a 'warbird'. They're very hard to find and it took me years to track down the Piper Club.

"It's living history. When I think that young men, sometimes less than 20 years old, were prepared to risk their lives in such a flimsy and fragile little aircraft for the liberation of Europe, it fills me with reverence."

The annual War and Peace Show is the world's largest military show and attracts thousands of military enthusiasts and wartime vehicles each year.

This year entertainment includes living history displays, tank demonstrations, fashions from the 1940s and military models.

The event will run at the Paddock Wood family attraction from July 22 to 26. For details go to www.thehopfarm.co.uk or www.thewarandpeaceshow.com.

Box kart racing is a family affair

FAMILIES lined the streets to see homemade box carts compete in a race in Maidstone.

Children and adults united to build box carts and then race against each other in the community event in Courtenay Road, Tovil.

The building of the karts took place at South Borough Primary School before they headed to the road, which was closed for the race.

The event was organised by The Family Trust, a Maidstone-based organisation that teaches children the relevance of Christianity in their daily lives.

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yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

Tory hopeful backs forum

TORY hopeful Helen Grant has praised businesses in a rural village for pulling together to beat the recession.

The Conservative parliamentary candidate for Maidstone and Weald visited Marden Business Forum for a dinner event, where the speakers included Kent County Council leader Paul Carter and Maidstone council leader Chris Garland.

Mrs Grant, who set up her own law firm in south London, was impressed by their community spirit, saying: "Marden's business people have removed the Chinese walls that so often separate neighbouring companies.

"They have embraced and shared the things they have in common, and are using them to good effect. I am pleased to offer them my full support."

The forum has 139 members from a wide array of sectors. To find out more visit www.mardenbusinessforum.com.

Celebrities cook at castle

FOUR celebrities attempted to impress guests with their culinary skills at Leeds Castle on a BBC1 show on Thursday night.

The Celebrity Masterchef semi-finalists, presenter Jayne Middlemiss, actor Ian Bleasdale, actress Wendi Peters and British Olympic athlete Iwan Thomas MBE, each cooked one of four courses for 12 guests.

They included Leeds Castle chief executive Victoria Wallace, chairman of the Kent Agricultural Society George Jessel, former restaurateur Sean Wallace and commercial catering director Sarah Miller.

Ms Wallace said: "It was a fantastic evening and a meal worthy of Leeds Castle."

M20 shut after accident

DRIVERS were left sweltering in the heat after an accident on the coast-bound carriageway of the M20.

All three lanes of the motorway were closed near Ashford when a lorry left the carriageway around 4pm last Wednesday, spilling its 29-tonne load of rape seed oil, as well as a large quantity of diesel.

A traffic jam stretched back more than 10 miles to junction eight at Hollingbourne, near Maidstone. The M20 was reopened just before 6pm.

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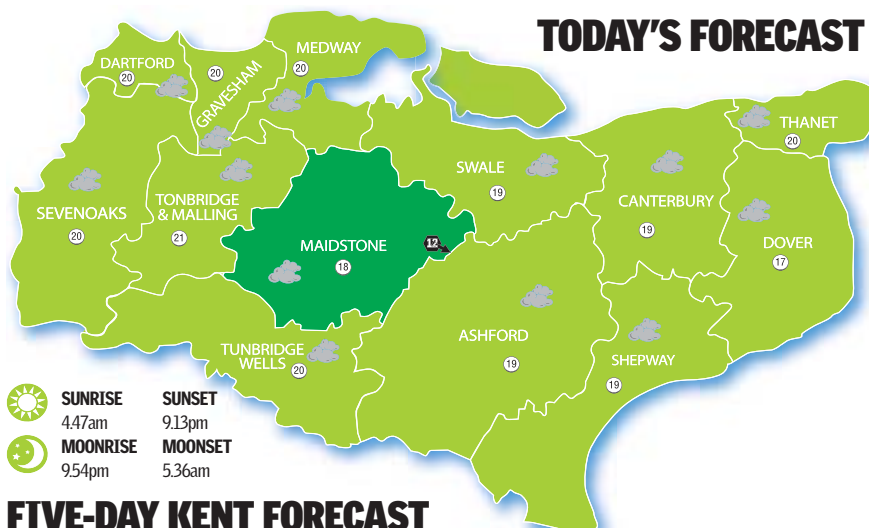
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SUNSET 9:13pm
MOONSET 5:36am

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	19°C	20°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	Gravesend	20°C	21°C	20°C	19°C	20°C
Canterbury	20°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	20°C	Maidstone	19°C	21°C	20°C	19°C	20°C
Chatham	19°C	20°C	19°C	18°C	20°C	Ramsgate	20°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	20°C
Dartford	20°C	21°C	20°C	19°C	20°C	Rochester	19°C	20°C	19°C	18°C	20°C
Dover	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C	19°C	Sevenoaks	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C	19°C
Faversham	19°C	20°C	19°C	18°C	20°C	Sittingbourne	19°C	20°C	19°C	18°C	20°C
Folkestone	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C	19°C	Tonbridge	19°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	20°C
Gillingham	19°C	20°C	19°C	18°C	20°C	Tun Wells	19°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	20°C

WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	4:00pm	5.7m
	Sunday	4:32pm	5.7m
Dover	Saturday	2:23pm	6.4m
	Sunday	2:54pm	6.3m
Dungeness	Saturday	2:13pm	7.3m
	Sunday	2:45pm	7.3m
Ramsgate	Saturday	2:53pm	4.8m
	Sunday	3:24pm	4.8m
Sheerness	Saturday	3:50pm	5.5m
	Sunday	4:22pm	5.4m
Whitstable	Saturday	3:46pm	5.1m
	Sunday	4:16pm	5.0m

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	22°C	Madrid	29°C
Athens	26°C	New York	24°C
Barcelona	28°C	Paris	23°C
Beijing	26°C	Rome	28°C
Bombay	29°C	Sydney	15°C
Cape Town	16°C	Tenerife	27°C
Cardiff	16°C	Tokyo	24°C
Gibraltar	27°C	Vancouver	21°C
Hong Kong	31°C	Warsaw	24°C
Las Palmas	27°C	Wellington	9°C



Plot carefully to get the most out of your garden

Pat Crawford gives wildlife gardening advice from Hadlow College in her exclusive column for Yourmaidstone

A PROBLEM increasingly faced by gardeners in towns is that space is at a premium.

With the cost of land, few housing developments can afford to be generous when apportioning plots. So what to do?

A couple of years back gardening simply didn't feature high on the agenda of people's recreational priorities. But now competition to grow your own has never been fiercer.

Allotments have waiting lists of at least ten years in some areas, and Grower Groups are springing up in more and more communities.

Schools are also enthusiastically producing increasing ranges of fruit and vegetables.

When extra space is needed, the answer might lie in planting a kitchen garden in pots and tubs and hanging baskets – the latter are especially good for strawberries and tomatoes.

It's a bit late to get going with most fruit and vegetables but there's time to produce crops of salad leaves, radishes and salad onions.

Starting small this year will encourage greater motivation – and big plans – for next year.

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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

ROB FORKNALL



Q What does your role involve?

A As artistic director of the company since 1992 I have directed all the shows and organised the youth theatre which folded in 2003. I cast all productions and coordinate all production meetings.

The role involves months of planning, finding venues, meetings with the designer to figure out the style and tone of the show. Now Changeling produces one show a year with the Hazlitt Theatre – touring Shakespeare in the open air around Kent.

Q Can you tell us a little about yourself?

A After leaving West Kent College when I was 18, I set up a company called ENR Productions and we produced such shows as Godspell, Cabaret, Equus, Agamemnon and Kiss Me Kate at The Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks and Trinity Arts Centre in Tunbridge Wells. After that I joined Round About Community Arts Project at the Hazlitt Theatre. My brief was to direct community shows and organise a workshop programme.

Then I formed the Querk Theatre Company with writer Kate Chapman, which involved youth theatre and working on new plays or new adaptations of plays that went into unusual venues, such as the first outdoor Shakespeare, A Midsummer Night's Dream, at Boughton Monchelsea Place in 1992, Lysistrata and Arturo Ui at The St George's

Centre in Gillingham, and 1381 at The Archbishop's Palace in Maidstone. In 1997 Querk gained charitable status and changed its name to Changeling. Our first production was Tartuffe at Boughton Monchelsea Place.

We started working more with professional actors rather than members of the community and did three years in Edinburgh with Changing Rooms and The World is just About Enuff.

In 2001 we performed A Midsummer Night's Dream, which was our first collaboration with the Hazlitt Theatre.

Q What is The Changeling Theatre working on at the moment?

A The Merchant of Venice, which will be touring outdoor venues from July 10 until August 9. We felt that this was a particularly pertinent choice in the current financial climate, and have characterised Venice as Canary Wharf, and the eponymous Merchant as a high flyer in the city. The play has a feel of The Apprentice about it and is accessible for all members of the family. Many people forget that the play is a comedy and that there are points in the show which are hilariously funny. We have integrated the music into the show so that the actors are playing throughout. The fact that the show is open air means that the audience will be among the action and those who bring rugs will actually have a better experience than those on chairs. So please bring picnics, wine and Pimms, and enjoy the

scenery and setting as much as the beautiful music and Shakespearean language.

Q What do you enjoy about your job? Are there any difficult areas?

A I love my job – being responsible for a show as massive as this every year is a brilliant thing to do and the more difficulties the better it gets. I love working with actors, working on text, creating the show and seeing it performed every night in beautiful venues. And, of course, the après-theatre fun is genius too.

Q What professional qualifications are useful in this career?

A Talent and a love of theatre, TV and film, and a commitment to the profession. Professional qualifications are not necessary. You must also be prepared to not always be in work and then, when you are, to work harder than you have ever worked in your life!

Q Tell us something most people don't know about you.

A I have an almost nerdy knowledge of British history that I have taught myself.

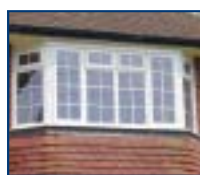
Q Anything you'd like to add?

A What we and the Hazlitt do every summer is every bit, if not better, than many productions that you would see in London's West End.

Q&A

The artistic director of the Changeling Theatre company spoke to Jon Coates about his job and his passion for staging open air performances of Shakespeare plays in stunning settings across mid and north Kent

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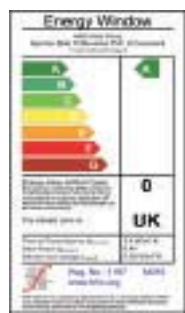
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EDITOR'S CHOICE

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Nightclub is forced to review security after man is hurt in 'brawl'

■ BY ANNA WHITE

CLUBBERS stood back and watched in horror when a "mass brawl" broke out at a town centre nightclub, according to one eye witness.

It was so bad the council suspended the club's licence until it improved CCTV coverage of areas inside and outside the club.

An investigation has been launched by police after an attack at Beluga Bar nightclub, in Bank Street, on June 20, at 11.30pm, which left one man with severe facial injuries.

One clubber who was there, told Yourmaidstone the fight initially broke out between a group of men on a night out at the Maidstone nightspot, but he said it quickly turned into large fight when security doormen tried to break it up.

The male customer said: "I was standing outside on the smoking terrace when a fight broke out and within seconds the bouncers were in there. It did look like they were trying to calm it down at first, but then it just turned into a mass brawl and I think the bouncers weren't trying to break it up - instead they were throwing punches.

"At one point a man, who I believe was a bouncer, was holding one of the lads back while another, who was dressed like a bouncer, punched him repeatedly and then he took his radio out of his pocket and hit the bloke in the



face with it - it was horrific. People were screaming and shouting to stop, but they wouldn't listen. It has put me off ever going there again. I have had some good nights out in there, but if the bouncers are like that I wouldn't feel safe."

■ A CCTV image has been released of a man officers want to speak to in connection with a town centre assault.

The attack happened in Gabriels Hill, at about 4am, on Sunday, April 26, when a 20-year-old man from Aylesford was punched in the jaw.

The man in the image is wearing a white v-neck tee-shirt, with a dark top underneath, and blue jeans. Investigating officer PC Mick Kavanagh, said: "We have released the picture today as part of our ongoing investigations into the assault. It was a totally unprovoked attack and we are keen to speak to this man in connection with the incident."

Anyone with information is asked to call PC Kavanagh on 01795 419182 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

The shocked clubber, who did not want to be named, suggested the men, who dressed like bouncers, were trying to take members of the group out of sight of the CCTV cameras. At one

stage one of the customers was taken into a nearby alleyway.

Last week the council's licensing authority, which met on June 30, ordered the suspension of the club's licence until it improved its CCTV surveillance.

The committee stated: "The violent events which occurred at the premises on June 20, 2009, demonstrated that although there are already numerous cameras in the premises, there are still 'black spots' which are not covered.

"Some important parts of the happenings of that night occurred in these black spots demonstrating the necessity of further coverage. The committee decided the elimination of these black spots would be an important step in the prevention of crime and disorder."

Beluga Bar licence holders, Hamid and Majid Javadi, were required to install CCTV to cover these bling areas, to ensure all door staff do not carry their radios by hand, but that the radios are in a harness or attached to their uniform. They will also have to wear earpieces and use 'push and talk' buttons.

A Kent police spokeswoman said: "Kent police carried out an inspection of the premises to see if the CCTV requirements had been met on July 1 and were satisfied they had."

The temporary licence suspension was lifted and the club was back open last Friday night.

Three men have been bailed in connection with the attack and the investigation is ongoing.

Despite repeated calls to the club, no one has returned calls to Yourmaidstone.

Compost site not a danger despite health warnings

COUNTY town residents are being assured their health is not a risk after a study revealed giant compost heaps could increase skin and lung conditions.

A Government-backed study has shown that rates of asthma, respiratory infections and skin complaints could increase among people living nearby to industrial-sized composting sites, unless they are regularly monitored.

Compost contains bacteria, cells and fungi that can be transported through emissions known as bioaerosols - which can be potentially harmful to humans.

But the developers behind the compost site in Kings Hill has reassured residents they need not worry as the site is one of few in the county that is fully enclosed.

Peter Mills, commercial director at New Earth Solutions, told Yourmaidstone: "Because the site is fully enclosed the entire process is kept inside from start to finish which means harmful emissions are not leaked. The site is one of only a few enclosed compost sites in the country, the risks of being partially or fully open are something the company identified a long time ago.

"Sites which are open will be challenged in controlling the amount of emissions it produces and could be faced with problems."

In open sites the garden waste and left-over food is usually piled up outside and is regularly overturned by heavy machine which helps spread the harmful bioaerosols.

The study, which was carried out by the Environment Agency and Cranfield University and published on The Mail Online, showed out of 44 examined sites only eight had produced adequate risk assessments on protecting the area from emissions.

Following the recent revelations the Environment Agency is revising its guidance for how composting sites can reduce its emissions.

For more information about the King's Hill site visit www.newearthsolutions.co.uk.

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Eating

Whilst on board our Food Court will be able to offer you great quality food at fantastic value prices - a family of four can eat for as little as £22 (2 adults and 2 children under 16) with plenty of choice including 'Great British Classics' like Fish and Chips

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What to do and see

Thinking of where to take the kids during the summer holidays? Here are a few ideas all within one hours' drive of Calais

Nausicaä - France's National Sea Discovery Centre in Boulogne-sur-Mer is more than just an Aquarium. Under-water exploration, special effects and spectacular attractions take the visitor on a journey to the heart of the oceans. In 2008, the National Sea Centre launched NAUSICAA III. The centre is unique providing real-time information about our Blue Planet and giving visitors an

unforgettable experience at the same time, inspiring them with a range of positive initiatives for the Blue Planet. It gives us another way to look at the world. Discover or rediscover the Oceans through four key themes: Sharks - Essential to Ocean Life, The Extraordinary Wealth of the Deep Amazing Whale Migrations, Fish from the sea to your dinner plate.

Le Touquet: With miles of wide sandy golden beaches you have virtually every conceivable outdoor activity catered for including sand yachting on one of the longest beaches in Northern France. **Aqualud waterpark.** The biggest amusement water park in Northern France, located on the French coast "Côte d'Opale" at Le Touquet.

St. Omer Area: The Flemish town of Saint-Omer stands on a hillside on the edge of the River Aa marshes, less than 30 miles from Calais. The large square in the town holds a weekly market on Saturday mornings, selling fresh local produce from the farms on the marshes. A branch of the river runs through the lower part of the town and a boat trip is an ideal way of seeing the 13th Century Abbey, houses and remarkable open countryside. Or you can visit the fantastic underground World War 2 museum nearby at La Coupole, the site of the V2 rocket in Helfaut and the Eperlecques Bunker are two of the great relics of the Second World War in Europe, that can be visited now as History and Remembrance Centres.

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Flavour of summer is right on your doorstep

WITH the arrival of summer sunshine, I am eating more salads, and am thrilled that the British tomato season is upon us.

Although tomatoes are available throughout the year, it is only in recent weeks that local varieties have ripened and there really is no comparison between the flavourless tomatoes available during winter and the sweet, tangy and delicious British varieties.

If you're a gardener your tomato plants should be doing well and you'll soon see the first signs of flowers or fruit. If not, you need to track down some local Kentish tomatoes.

Those provided by www.foodforkent.co.uk are grown by Brian and Lorraine Watts, who run the Leonard Ironside nursery at Farthing Common, Lynging, which I visited last month.

Brian has been growing tomatoes since 1974, and it was fascinating to find out what is involved.

His nursery comprises four, one-acre glasshouses, containing about 35,000 tomato plants. Brian currently grows 10 different varieties, ranging from traditional vine and plum to cherry and beef tomatoes. The tomato seedlings are planted in November in what looks like giant grow bags filled with coir, which is shredded coconut husk – a much more environmentally-sound choice than traditional peat.

In the first part of a regular series of articles, healthy eating expert ABBY DYSON – who writes about cooking, seasonal, healthy food at www.eattherightstuff.com – discusses her recent visit to the county to experience the delights of Kentish tomatoes.



Brian explained how the environment in the glasshouses is carefully monitored to create optimum growing conditions.

The temperature is varied depending on how bright a day it is – on sunny days the plants grow fast and need extra warmth, whereas on an overcast day less heat is required as they are growing more slowly.

Just as important is keeping the glasshouses well ventilated, so that disease, which flourishes in warm damp environments, is kept at bay and condensation doesn't form which might cause blemishes on the tomatoes. Carbon dioxide, a by-product of

the heating system, is pumped into the glasshouses to encourage better growth.

One of the most interesting things about visiting the nursery was learning about the bugs and bees which Brian deploys to help him grow the tomatoes.

Each glasshouse contains a number of bee hives housing bumble bees that pollinate the tomatoes.

This is a far cry from the techniques used in yesteryear, which saw farmers use a vibrating metal rod to "tickle" each flower so that the pollen was dislodged.

The bees are introduced when the first

flowers appear – usually just after Christmas – and continue their work until the end of the growing season in the autumn.

Brian also uses predator insects. The plants are regularly inspected by white-coated scientists and any sign of pests is noted. Predator insects are then introduced which target and eliminate these pests.

It's a wonderful example of working with Mother Nature and as a result of this approach Brian's tomatoes are grown without the use of pesticides, fungicides or insecticides.

Each glasshouse contains 500 rows of tomatoes and from March, when the plants start producing fruit – it takes eight weeks from pollination to a tomato being ready to pick – each row is picked every other day, six days a week.

The tomatoes are put straight into the boxes in which they are sold so that they are handled as little as possible.

Unusually, they are not put into cold storage but go straight to the people who are buying them so that the time between picking and selling is kept short.

The result is flavoursome Kentish tomatoes which are well worth tracking down.



Abbi's double tomato and courgette pasta

(Serves 2)

Pasta for two – penne works well

1 tablespoon olive oil

1 large clove garlic, crushed

2 courgettes, cut into discs

1 tablespoon of sun-dried tomatoes, softened in boiling water and cut into thin strips

Juice of half a lemon

15-20 cherry tomatoes, halved

A handful of basil leaves, shredded

1 tablespoon of toasted pine nuts

Parmesan cheese, to serve

Put the pasta on to cook.

Fry the garlic in olive oil and when you start to smell it, add the courgette.

Turn the heat up and cook, stirring regularly, until the courgette begins to soften. Keep the heat high and add the sun-dried tomatoes and lemon juice and cook for a more few minutes.

When the courgette is sufficiently cooked add the cherry tomatoes, basil and pine nuts.

Remove from the heat, mix with the pasta and serve with parmesan shavings.

For more examples of seasonal recipes visit Abby's healthy eating food blog www.eattherightstuff.com



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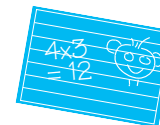
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Girls return to mark 25 years

■ BY ANNA WHITE

PAST and present pupils came together at their school to celebrate its annual speech say and mark 25 years since it opened its doors to girls.

Sutton Valence School was an all-boys school when it was founded in 1576, but former headmaster Michael Haywood decided to introduce female students in 1983.

Mr Haywood attended the speech day on Saturday, as did a number of the original female students – including Louise Knagg, formerly Gaston, who had flown in from Portland, Oregon, and Emma Isherwood, formerly Pickard, from Devon.

The school also welcomed incoming headmaster Bruce Grindlay, who will replace Joe Davies in September.

Chairman of governors Bryan Baughan paid tribute to Mr Davies, saying: "The past nine years will prove to be a defining moment in the history of this school."

"Since 1576, there has not been a period where the school has developed and progressed as much."

"He has a highly distinctive and effective

management style that commands respect and loyalty from all who work with him."

In welcoming Mr Grindlay, Mr Baughan said: "Education does not end at the classroom door and we are fortunate that in the future, this school is going to witness more of the same."

In a farewell speech, Mr Davies thanked staff and students before predicting this year's exam results will be among the best ever.

Speaking of the school's state-of-the-art facilities, including a theatre and 25-metre indoor swimming pool, Mr Davies said: "These are just opportunities and the key is that our pupils take these opportunities."

"Buy a ticket. If you don't participate, you can't develop your talents."

The guest of honour was former Kent cricketer, journalist and author Ed Smith, who paid tribute to Mr Davies, who he described as a "British lion of British teaching".

While addressing the pupils, Mr Smith said: "You have been fortunate to have been dealt a hand of aces and picture cards. Play your hand as well as you can – you have nothing to fear and everything to gain."

More than 100 prizes were presented to students, aged 11 to 18, for their achievement in various subjects and their all-round contribution of school life.



HEADS UP: Bruce Grindlay, left, 1983 head Michael Haywood, Joe Davies, right, with some of the girls from 1983

BREAK TIME

Big business for academy pupils



TEAMWORK: Last year's Cornwallis champions

TEAMS of budding entrepreneurs are hoping their business skills will stand out in a competition to secure a cash prize fund.

Sixth-formers at the Cornwallis Academy will be able to showcase their talents when they work with a company for two weeks, as they try to win the Skills Challenge.

Teams of up to 12 students who enter the challenge, which is an alternative to work experience, will need to develop a solution to a real business project.

Every team will get a representative from each of the 12 organisations taking

part, who will act as a mentor until the challenge ends on July 21.

Members of the winning team will receive £100 each, runners-up will win £50 each and those in third place will be awarded £30 per person.

Skills for Life co-ordinator Liz Simmons said: "We are very excited by the calibre and cross section of businesses that have come forward to support our students."

"The Skills Challenge presents an exciting opportunity for our pupils to earn money and work to deadline, while tackling a real-life business challenge."

The champions in last year's challenge devised a fundraising campaign for the Heart of Kent Hospice, while the runners-up saw their idea for an Urban Blue Bus launched this April in partnership with The Mall Chequers.

Organisations taking part this year are Hewlett Packard, Natwest, Whitehead Monckton Solicitors, Heart of Kent Hospice, Weald of Kent Golf Club, EDF Energy, Demelza House, Stratega Ltd, Invicta Chambers of Commerce, Core Financial Service Ltd, Hilton Hotel and The Mall Corporation.



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yourmaidstoneblogger

Editor of our sister paper Kent on Saturday, Chris Britcher, on how commuters may lose out on the high-speed trains



Fast track to the office means less free time to spend on you

I SPENT many years commuting on our rail network. And somewhere in my brain lurks a department which can still reel off the full stopping service between my home station and the London terminals.

The list of stations seeped into my brain subconsciously as I stood on platforms waiting for trains home. There are still places in Kent I have never been to but know they exist purely by the fact they have a station on a main line. Places like Martin Mill, Dumpton Park and Westenhangar. I have images of what they are like, a mystique I know would probably be shattered were I to ever set eyes on them. Quite frankly, my brain isn't big enough to be carrying around that sort of information.

At first I despised the daily two-hour slog to London and then repeating the slow, dirty process home again. Given it just involved me sitting on a cushioned seat, it was crippling tiring. And mind-numbingly boring.

I resented every sweaty lump who sat next to me. I could happily have stabbed to death those who sprawled themselves over two seats and refused to budge when I came down the carriage in desperate need of a spot to park myself for the duration. Over the top, maybe. But after a long day, selfish seat nabbing is without question punishable by death.

But over the years, my hate relationship with these 'lost' four hours changed.

In the mornings, I would nab my window seat, plug in my CD player (this was the pre-iPod era) and look forward to an extra hour and a half's sleep. Sure it meant I'd wake up somewhere outside Bromley, dribbling on to the shoulder of the poor sap next to me, but at least I got a little shut eye.

Then on the way home in would go the earphones and out would come a book. I used the time to read classics I'd never read before. Books I had failed miserably at school to concentrate on; I probably read more during those journeys than I have before or since.

Suddenly, the hated two hours turned into a

precious pair. This was my time. I'd turn my phone off and just enjoy good music, good literature or simply the view.

Granted, the trains were always the old rubbish slam door trains. And on the rare occasion when I would end up standing in the old post carriages, they were truly miserable hours. But if I'd got a seat and avoided anyone with children then it could have been worse.

So what? I hear you cry. Well I say this because for those commuters happy to shell out a few bob, that time has now been reduced. Because this is a new era of super-fast high-speed trains. Of 37-minute journeys from Ashford to London. And that's quite incredible.

And as good as it must be to shave such a gigantic slice of travelling time, I would wager there will at least be a few like me who may rue that precious time. Because we all know what will happen. That time saved will be spent in the office and not at home. And a bit of valuable leisure time will be gone.

So don't worry if you can't afford to upgrade. Just remember that time is on your side.

GET IN TOUCH...

We want to hear your views



EMAIL: Letters, comments, views (along with your name) to: yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk



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LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the acting editor, **Jon Coates**, on 01303 817048 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Maidstone blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 500 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, Yourmaidstone, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

* We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion

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yourcompetition

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We have a great holiday for two to Jersey to give away. Flying out on Saturday, August 29, our winners will spend seven nights at the fantastic three-star Merton Hotel in St Helier. As well as all the sights, the winners can enjoy the hotel's new £1 million Flowrider – a unique "skill and thrill" aquatic attraction.

To be in with a chance of winning this fantastic holiday, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Jersey Holiday Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, TN25 6SR.

The closing date is July 29, 2009.

Kent International Airport



Question: What day does the Kent International flight operate to Jersey?

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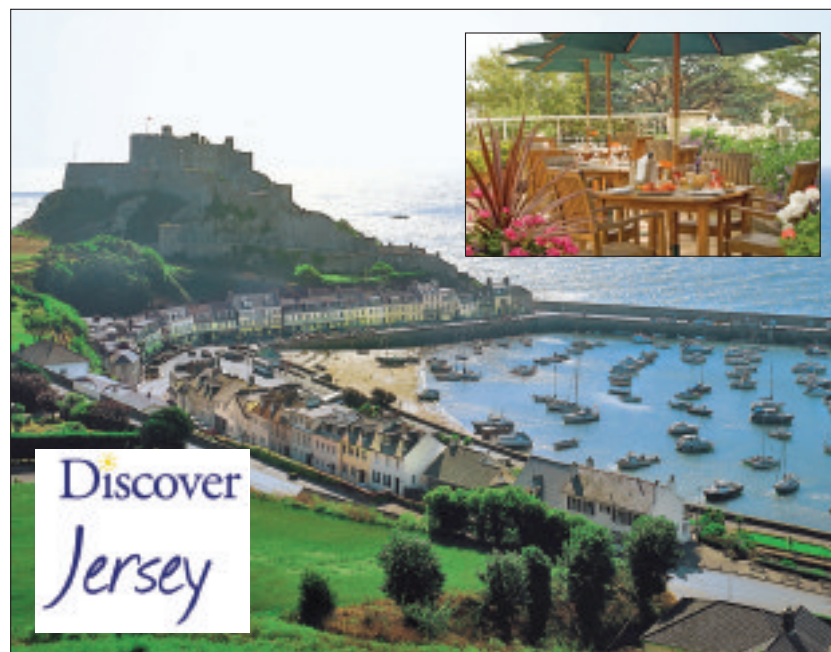
If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

Only one entry per household. Correct entries will be drawn at random on July 30 and a winner selected. The winner will be notified by post. The prize is non-transferable and includes two free flights from Kent International Airport, departing August 29 for a week.

Seven nights accommodation at the Merton Hotel in a twin room on a bed and breakfast basis. Transfers to hotel are included.

The competition is open to all UK residents aged 18 years and over. Promotion excludes employees and their immediate families of the promoters, any agencies of the promoters and anyone professionally connected with the promotion.

All personal data collected via this promotion will only be used for the purpose of marketing the holidays and travel offered by Discover Jersey & Guernsey.



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TALK TIME

KATE PATERSON

The salon manager at the newly-opened Rush hairdressers in Fremlin Walk, Maidstone, lets us in on what hairstyles people should be trying this summer.



What are the most popular hairstyles for summer?

Summer is a time for curls, movement and for having fun and being experimental with your hair. Right now it's all about more voluminous curls and multi texture within styles. Girls with naturally curly hair should ditch the flat irons and make the most of what they've got.

It's time to throw the rule book out of the window, curls don't have to be defined any more, in fact softer, more textured brushed out curls, as seen on the runway are the way to go.

What are the best ways to maintain curls?

Wash your hair only when necessary and make sure you give it a good rinse. If it's feeling dry, a conditioning treatment once a week will do the trick. Towel-dry the hair, making sure not to disturb the curl too much, add your favourite curl-defining product, then allow to dry naturally, or diffuse, depending on the British summer.

Once the hair is completely dry, try running your fingers from the roots through to ends – this will loosen the curls.

What is an alternative instead of curls?

Pony tails are a quick and easy way to transform your look. Apply some wet look gel all around the hair line comb or brush back in to a tight high pony tail, secure and fluff up the ends with some back combing and hair spray for multi textured look. As an alternative you can tong, crimp or straighten the ends.

YOUR LETTERS

Lost opportunity to restore integrity

I was not surprised to see our MP Ann Widdecombe fail to be elected as the new Speaker of the House of Commons.

Ann's not so good as people think

Like so many of us, Karen Cox has had the wool pulled over her eyes. (Yourmaidstone letters page in July 1 issue)

Ann Widdecombe was reported to be one of the MPs who voted for exempting them from the Freedom of Information Act, ie to keep MPs expenses secret.

She also defends the need for a second home in London, although thousands of us manage to make the arduous trip there each day without extra accommodation, or the need for a shed full of cash.

Where was this supposedly outspoken woman when two Tory MPs last year took an extra £400,000 and £700,000 respectively out of their expenses? Did somebody gag her?

I'm afraid it appears that a saint she ain't, but she talks a good game!

Phil Granger,
from West Malling, by email.

We must all stand united against KIG

I was pleased to read in last week's Yourmaidstone that



COMMENT ONLINE TOO

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the www.yourmaidstone.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, www.yourmaidstone.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Maidstone as well as our villages. We will include the best on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience.

In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourmaidstone before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out. On www.yourmaidstone.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly acclaimed e-editions.

SEEDA is thinking of withdrawing its backing of KIG.

Quite why they ever deemed a freight depot of that size on green fields was a good idea remains a mystery. But at least it seems they finally have the sense

to review their stance in the face of opposition from residents, Maidstone council and KCC, and the MPs for Maidstone and Mid Kent, Ann Widdecombe and Hugh Robertson.

I, like many, remain confused

Agency takes another look at KIG plan



about the role/worth of SEEDA, but if they are to represent this region they should present a united front with the community and political leaders against KIG.

This depot will ruin beautiful countryside and several villages, and must not be allowed to happen. Only by everyone in Kent presenting a united front can we persuade the Government to reject the depot – and that has to include SEEDA.

Mary Taylor,
from Thurnham, by email.

Jacko mourners should Beat It

Is it just me, or has everyone gone totally over the top about Michael Jackson?

Okay he made a few good albums, and the songs were alright and the videos clever.

But he certainly was no saint and that is even before you start looking into allegations over his



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private life. It seems as soon as anyone dies now a sort of Princess Di factor comes into play.

Everyone uses it as an occasion for relentless outpourings of grief.

It certainly is tragic for his family and I am sure his fans will miss the opportunity to watch his shows and buy his music, if any new releases were forthcoming.

But as a general cause for upset and tears – no I don't think so.

James Heath,
by email.

**New balls, please.
Football, preferably**

Is anyone else fed up to the back teeth with Wimbledon?
New World Online Community

Two weeks of tennis isn't much to ask

In response to "New balls, please. Football, preferably" in last week's letters page, I would just like to say that Wimbledon gives us superb coverage of fantastic tennis for just two weeks every year.

The Ashes is going to last for five days for five matches. That's 25 days, assuming the weather stays fine! As for football, what a bore, seeing all those overpaid prima donnas prancing round is just too much.

Surely no one can begrudge us tennis fans our two weeks of

sporting pleasure? Come on, be reasonable.

Barbara Doughty,
by email.

Sporting priorities are all wrong on TV

I agree with the letter by Ian Paynter in last week's paper. It seems to have been ages coming but at last the Ashes will soon be here.

After weeks – it seems like years – of having to put up with the tedious antics of the grunting women of Wimbledon there is real sport about to come to everyone's attention.

Hang on though – it won't will it?

While the BBC spends millions on its coverage of Wimbledon and that other non-sport Formula 1, only those with Sky will be able to see one of the top sporting rivalries in the world go head-to-head for a gripping two months or so. The England-Australia Test match series is one of the jewels in the crown of world sport and last time it was on in this country it gripped the nation.

That's not going to happen this time around whatever the result and however exciting the games are.

It is not fair that we have to suffer loads of boring sports and not get to see a minute of one that has been part of this nation's sporting history for more than a century.

The BBC has not got its priorities anywhere near right.

Anthony Lockwood,
by email.

Give a carer the break they deserve

Did your readers know there are currently 700,000 people with dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, in the UK?

It is estimated there will be over a million people with dementia by 2025. Caring for a loved one with dementia can be a lonely, stressful experience. The feeling of disconnection is hardest to bear.

There may be precious moments of clarity, when memories return and the years roll away, but for the most part carers have to watch their loved ones drifting slowly away.

So many carers are in need of respite, but opportunities to be relieved of the caring role for even a short time are few and far between. I work at a place called Vitalise Jubilee Lodge in Chigwell, Essex, an accessible respite break centre for disabled people and carers run by national charity Vitalise.

We regularly have special weeks for people with Alzheimer's and dementia and their partners.

Relieved of all their care worries, carers can regain their strength and reconnect with their loved ones.

If you or someone you care about is affected by Alzheimer's or dementia and you would like to know more about our special Alzheimer's Weeks, please call 0845 345 1970 or email bookings@vitalise.org.uk.

Eddy Marie,
from Vitalise Jubilee Lodge, by email.

The Aspinall Foundation 2009 totally wild challenge



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Saturday 5 September 2009

Join us for our totally wild challenge to help raise funds for The Aspinall Foundation's animal conservation projects in Kent and overseas.

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- For a totally tough challenge, you could run AND cycle!
- Event starts and finishes inside Port Lympne Wild Animal Park. Stay and enjoy the park with family and friends for the rest of the day.
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Hip hop's 'head honcho' Roots Manuva joins Edwyn Collins on star-studded line-up at award-winning festival

LOUNGE ON THE FARM

July 10-12

Merton Farm, near Canterbury



FROM hip hop to indie, Lounge on the Farm presents a diverse range of music treats this year.

Boasting headline acts such as Edwyn Collins and The Horrors, the three-day festival offers new and established acts from a variety of genres.

The Saturday night headliner has been announced as seminal UK performer Roots Manuva.

Following the example of Glastonbury boss Michael Eavis, who added US superstar Jay-Z to the bill last year, LOTF organiser Matt Gough has decided to bring the "head honcho of UK hip hop" to Kent.

The music starts on Friday when Hobo Jones and The JD, A Hawk & A Hacksaw, Toddla T, Los Salvadores, The King Blues and Gong are just some of the great acts taking to the stage before headline act The Horrors brings the day to a close.

Saturday's entertainment includes performances by Krafty Kuts, The Temper Trap, Portico Quartet and The Aliens, alongside nearly 30 other acts.

Sunday's final line-up includes Underground Heroes, Krissy & The Jackdaws, the James Taylor Quartet, Son of Dave, Dan Le Sac v Pip, Mr Scruff, Billy Childish & The MBE and a finale from Edwyn Collins.

Upcoming Kent bands will have the chance to perform after being voted into the line-up by fans and the lucky winners include Elephants, Billy Wears Dresses, The Sketch, Ghost In Mirrors, Twilight Green and The Dukes.

The festival has received much acclaim for its support of local food and drink producers, so there will be plenty of gastronomic delights.

Lounge on the Farm's accolades include The Telegraph's recommendations for top family festivals, while last year's event was among the Times' Top 10 Boutique Festivals, the Observer's Top 20 Festivals You've Never Heard Of and the Guardian's



STAR TURNS: Saturday headliner Roots Manuva, and right, Edwyn Collins, who brings the festival to a close on Sunday

Best Family Festivals. Organisers also earned a Greener Festival Award for their commitment to environmentally-friendly working practices.

Despite the recession, early bird tickets sold out in record time this year. Full weekend tickets cost £85 for adults, £45 for children and £180 for families of two adults and two children. Children aged five and under are admitted for free. For full festival listings and to book tickets visit the website at www.loungeon-thefarm.co.uk.



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DARLING BUDS CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Sunday July 12, Buss Farm, Bethersden

ENJOY a 'perfick' day out in the beautiful Kent countryside at the Darling Buds Classic Car Show.

Presented by the Rover P5 Alive Club, the show is being held at Buss Farm just off Pluckley Road. The location was used for the filming of The Darling Buds of May, based on the novels by HE Bates who lived nearby.

This is the only time that the farm is open to the public and this year's show will

include Pop Larkin's yellow Rolls Royce and blue Chevrolet truck. At least 900 classic vehicles are expected to be taking part in the show and owners of all pre-1980s classic cars are welcome to exhibit.

Other attractions include a birds of prey flying display, children's rides, live music, auto-jumble and craft stalls, food, a licensed bar and a visit by the Kent Air Ambulance helicopter.

A very special exhibit is a rare restored and working ICT 1301 main-frame computer from the 60s, which takes up a whole barn and answers to the name of Flossie.

Public admission costs £10 per car, including all occupants and parking. For details visit www.darlingbudsclassicarshow.co.uk.

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

Thursday, July 16
Hermitage Millennium Amphitheatre, Maidstone

ENJOY a credit crunch of Shakespearean proportions when The Merchant of Venice visits Maidstone.

The Bard's tale of racism, financial collapse and hidden agendas receives an update in this production by the Hazlitt Arts Centre and The Changeling theatre company.

The play highlights Shakespeare's talent for capturing age-old problems by giving his story a modern twist.

Former Hollyoaks actor Oliver Farnworth stars as Lorenzo, who loves the daughter of Jewish moneylender, Shylock. While one character accepts a loan from Shylock at a high risk, another tries to win the hand of an heiress by taking part in a game that draws



comparisons to Deal or No Deal.

Farnworth has previously starred as Lysander in the British Shakespeare Company's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream and appeared in ITV's The Royal. Tickets are priced from £10.

The performance starts at 7.30pm. To book tickets call 01622 758611 or visit www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk.



CASTLE CONCERTS

Wednesday July 15 to Saturday July 18
Rochester Castle Gardens

GET ready to rock in style as a host of huge names line up to perform in this year's Castle Concerts.

Music fans will get plenty of satisfaction when the Counterfeit Stones perform on Wednesday, bringing the spirit of rock to the stage. They have filled London's Royal Albert Hall and delighted audiences all over the country since forming in 1993. They will be supported by comedy star Ade Edmondson

and his band The Bad Shepherds, who play punk songs on folk instruments.

Jools Holland and His Rhythm & Blues Orchestra return for their seventh castle concert on Thursday, joined by guitarist Dave Edmunds.

Billed as Britain's most successful pop group since the Beatles, chart-topping, Brit Award-winning phenomenon Mc Fly will be performing for their screaming fans on Friday.

The Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra will be bringing the series to a close with the Castle Proms on Saturday.

For tickets, from £20 to £32, call 01634 338338 or go to www.castleconcerts.co.uk.

MAIDSTONE LEISURE

Enjoy local bands and give school a boost

AN EVENING of live music is being held this weekend in aid of The Quest School for Children with Autism.

A variety of local bands will perform at The Christian Centre in Hanover Road, Tunbridge Wells, on Saturday. Tables of eight are available, and individual tickets are £15 each or £25 for two, including a light supper and coffee.

Children over 14 are welcome. To book call Alyson Smith on 01732 522700 or email Alyson.smith@questschool.co.uk.

Don't miss the bus for trip to Mamma Mia

DANCING queens are invited to join a Hazlitt Theatre trip to Mamma Mia!

Feisty single mum, Donna, recalls her carefree younger days while her daughter Sophie dreams of a traditional wedding in this West End production.

The coach leaves at 5pm tomorrow and tickets cost £47.50. Call 01622 758611 or visit www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk.

Walk to raise cash for leukaemia research

PUT your best foot forward and help raise money for a good cause on the Forget Me Not Walk.

The five-mile walk takes place at Penshurst Place on Sunday in aid of Leukaemia Research. Entry costs £7.50 for adults, £5 for children and £20 for families of two adults and two children. Enter online at www.forgetmenotwalks.com or call 020 7269 9006.

Bridalwear bargains at hotel clearance sale

BRIDES could bag a bargain at The Wedding Experience Bridalwear Clearance Sale.

Many of the best wedding specialists will be exhibiting at the Ramada Hotel & Resort Maidstone in Hollingbourne on Sunday, from 10.30am-3.30pm. For details call 01795 844449 or visit www.wedding-experience.co.uk.

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The computer-animated Ice Age series returns with Sid the sloth being taken to a dangerous subterranean kingdom after stealing dinosaur eggs, and his loyal friends beginning a rescue mission.

LOOKING FOR ERIC (15)



A suicidal postman receives spiritual guidance from famously-philosophical midfielder Eric Cantona in this quirky British film exploring the escape football offers fans in their hour of need.

TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN (15)



The robots continue their feud in this sequel, with more slam-bang thrills and skirmishes between the noble Autobots and the Decepticons.

Cameron steps up to the role of desperate mum

■ BY KATE WHITING

AFTER years of playing the ditz blonde known for having one of the broadest smiles in Hollywood, Cameron Diaz is moving on.

Following roles in comedies such as Charlie's Angels and What Happens In Vegas, she admits that it was new territory acting in the big-screen adaptation of Jodi Picoult's heart-rending novel *My Sister's Keeper*.

Reflecting on her portrayal of mother Sara Fitzgerald, whose child is dying from leukaemia, she explains that she had to grow into the role.

"There was a certain level of maturity that had to come with playing this role, that I think I had to step up to, which I was happy and thankful for," she says, picking her words carefully.

In the film, Fitzgerald chooses to have a second child by IVF as a blood and marrow donor for her first daughter Kate.

The movie co-stars 13-year-old Abigail Breslin, best known for her Oscar-nominated turn in 2007's *Little Miss Sunshine*, as the youngest daughter Anna, who sues her parents for the medical rights to her own body, when she's expected to donate a kidney to her sister Kate (Sofia Vassilieva).

Cameron, 36, admits it was a "touchy" role to take on, but she felt ready for it: "It was a nice stepping stone in the experience of life."

Casting Cameron as a mother of three teenage kids is an unusual choice, but director Nick Cassavetes, who won acclaim for 2004's *The Notebook*, thought otherwise.

He picked her precisely because she had done so little drama, saying: "I really didn't want to cast an actress who had done some-



BIG SMILE: Cameron Diaz is trying something new

thing similar for this film."

And Cameron hasn't let him down. She speaks so passionately about Sara, it's easy to see she put a lot of herself into the film.

"I feel like Sara is a warrior," she gushes.

"She doesn't have a moment not to be vigilant. She can't be apathetic one second of the day."

"She has a child who's dying and she has

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been through a decade of this vigilance. So, she's just sort of pushing through this."

To research the role, Cameron met mothers with sick children who were going through the same experience as Sara.

"No matter what the circumstances were - everybody had a different financial position or some were married and some were divorced - they all said that there's just not a moment that you aren't focused on keeping your child alive," she says.

"What's so wonderful with this film is that you see how it's not one person's story - it's not just a mother losing a daughter, it's a sister losing a sister or a brother losing a sister, a family losing their family together, all of them suffering separately as well as together."

MY SISTER'S KEEPER 
Certificate 12A

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High Rocks Festival re-jig gives Power to the people

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

AS THE old adage goes, good things come to those who wait.

And so it proves to be for British Sea Power fans, with the Mercury Music Prize-nominated indie stars set to headline the re-arranged High Rocks music festival in Tunbridge Wells next month.

The Brighton-based outfit were originally booked to perform at the Sonic Heights 'A Day With British Sea Power' one-dayer earlier this summer but pulled out citing recording commitments.

But the Sonic Heights team were able to pull some strings, moving the whole music marathon to Sunday August 2.

The move sees existing ticketholders avoid disappointment and increases the likelihood of BSP playing brand new, never-heard-before material.

Sonic Heights' Chris Pritchard said he thought their debut event was shaping up well.

He said: "British Sea Power in a converted barn in Tunbridge Wells. It does not get much better than that."

"Sonic Heights are thrilled to be putting on this show, especially it being our first."

"It was a shame the event has had to be moved. The fact that we have to be patient for longer is the biggest frustration, but with possible issues occurring during the recording session, we didn't want this show being the reason for a delay of hearing the band's new material."

Scores of bands are being lined up on the undercard, with Tom Williams & The Boat, The Help Movement, Lights Go Blue, Maker



and Krissy & The Jackdaws already agreeing to play.

More bands and DJs are set to be unveiled nearer the time.

The High Rocks festival is open to over-16s only. Music runs from 2pm to midnight. Tickets cost £16.

For more information visit www.wegotickets.com/event/50660

LINE UP

A Day With...
British Sea Power
Tom Williams & The Boat
The Help Movement
Lights Go Blue
Maker
Krissy & The Jackdaws



LINE-UP: Brighton's British Sea Power (top) will be joined at High Rocks by Tom Williams & The Boat (above)

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HAIR-RAISING: Josh Weller plays She Shot Me at The Farmhouse, Canterbury



RUN WITH IT: Luke Jackson performs a cover of Snow Patrol hit Run



KENT UNSIGNED GIGS

- 1 Lost in Colour - 17/7 Dover Town Hall
- 2 My Last Mistake - 22/7 The Bargate, Gillingham
- 3 Venxia - 2/8 The Loft, Maidstone
- 4 Salvador Charlie - 14/8 Cramptons, Broadstairs
- 5 Kayley Weller - 30/8 The Three Horseshoes, Mongeham

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Entertain yourself at half price in the Mall

CHILDREN and young-at-heart adults can stock up on toys and games this summer for half the price.

The Entertainer Store in the Mall Chequers has launched its summer sale offering a wide range of items such as the latest Tamagotchi, hundreds of books – some for just £1 – and action toys.

The store is also offering discounts on some of its summer stock, including paddling pools.

Visit www.thetoyshop.com.

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PUT expensive sunglasses in the shade by taking advantage of New Look's fantastic deal.

All ladies sunglasses have been reduced to just £5, while all children's shades are now priced at £4. From diamante studded and bright neon to oversized and classic aviators, there is something to brighten up everyone's summer.

To see the full range pop into the Mall Chequers and Water Lane stores, or log on to www.newlook.com.

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FAIRTRADE beauty products are now available at some major UK stores such as Boots and Lush.

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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

THE WIRE
BBC2, 11.20pm, Wednesday
From 1.20am, Sunday morning

CRITICS the world over put *The Wire* up there as one of the finest shows ever to hit screens.

Many say it is the best full stop.

It's a fine body of work, of that there can be no doubt.

Centering on the complex story of Baltimore's drug-addled streets, action focuses mainly on those peddling the narcotics and those charged with bringing law and order back to the housing projects.

It's a complex, intricate world, as the show exposes the hypocrisy and injustice of life for all people caught up in the tangled web.

As a counterpoint to this, each series delves a little deeper into one specific aspect of that world.

Series one focused on the streets, while the second looked at the city docks and its longshoreman as they set about importing and distributing the white stuff – often at odds with the very core of their blue collar union values.

Series four looks at the effect on the school system, while five examines the reporting of crime by newspaper the *Baltimore Sun*.

On BBC Two we are on series three as it tickles the sordid underbelly of politics in Baltimore.

It is a rich and fascinating look at the balances struck and compromises made as the bodies pile up amid brutal violence.

What's special is that this is probably a lot closer to what goes on than many of us would feel comfortable with.

The writers never feel the need to explain every plot nuance, nor do they scrimp on the realism.

Get it and come along for the ride is



HARD-HITTING: Crime series *The Wire* has received many plaudits for its realistic approach

the message and if you can't keep up then just don't bother.

At times touching and at others downright barbaric, it's a tour de force that never dips into anything below brilliant.

The Wire deserves its place among the all-time crime greats such as *The Sopranos* but, as ever, the TV schedulers have done their best to annoy viewers by hiding this away and showing it at different times and dates.

My advice, if you love TV, is to buy yourself the DVD box set, settle down on the sofa and let all five series wash over you in your own time.

If you want a quick taster dip your toe into the waters via BBC2 to help you decide if you do want to splash out £80-odd of your hard-earned on the whole collection.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)
THE spiritual satisfaction you've been seeking could finally arrive. You've finally come to terms with the fact you need more personal time to pursue your favourite hobbies. If this means setting aside a secluded work area or getting up early to work on a project, so be it.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)
YOU could win a publishing contract, legal settlement or long-running dispute. This welcome turn of events lets you move on to bigger and better things. Take this opportunity to look for a job in keeping with your skill set. Good news about a relative or neighbour is music to your ears.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753

LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)
You're finally seeing the results of a rigorous health regimen. Take this opportunity to add some fashionable items to your wardrobe. Fortunately, a nice little earner will come your way. It will require lots of personal sacrifice, but the results will be worth it.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)
LEARNING a new skill will make it much easier to get a stable, well paid job. Take a course to learn accounting, construction or counselling skills. It may take a few months to get your certificate, but stick with it. A supportive relative may be willing to finance you.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)
A CHERISHED wish is about to be granted and it's all thanks to a supportive friend, business partner, or lover. Don't hesitate to accept their generosity. Nobody realises dreams alone. The strength of having faith in yourself plays an enormous part in your success.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531753

GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)
A HEAVY flirtation could finally be consummated. If you're already in a relationship, your amour could get a raise, giving you more money for luxuries. Take this opportunity to buy something you will use on a daily basis. Funds could also become available will bring you long-term security.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)
MAKE an effort to finish a writing, painting, or film project. Alternatively, think about starting a family or moving home. Taking on a new responsibility will give you great joy. If you're looking for work, explore opportunities related to travel, education, or publishing.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)
MONEY from something you did a long time ago could finally arrive. Put the cash towards advancing your career in some way. Getting expert training will help you rise through the ranks of your preferred industry. You could be soon be recognised as a genuine creative talent.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)
YOUR spell in the spotlight comes to a successful finale. A boost in status could be coming your way. Nobody could accuse you of being the recipient of random good fortune; your victory is the result of hard work and discipline. Take your bows and then spend more time with friends.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752

CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)
AN engagement, wedding, or business deal will go off without a hitch and having someone by your side to stand up for you and support you will make your daily life much easier. If you aim to buy or sell a house or apartment get the help and advice of a professional or lawyer.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755

LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)
THINKING about buying or selling property or doing your place up? Whatever your plans might be they will re-establish a comforting security and help you plan more constructively for the future. If a relative plans on getting professional help for a problem give them your support.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)
THE results of a personal improvement project are impressive. Thanks to your hard work, you'll be able to expand your horizons in some material way. Travelling, writing, practicing law are all possibilities open to you in one way or another now. You'll never know unless you try.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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EASY

			6	9	7			8
2		6	4		5			
7		5				6	3	4
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MEDIUM

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HARD

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CRYPTIC CLUES

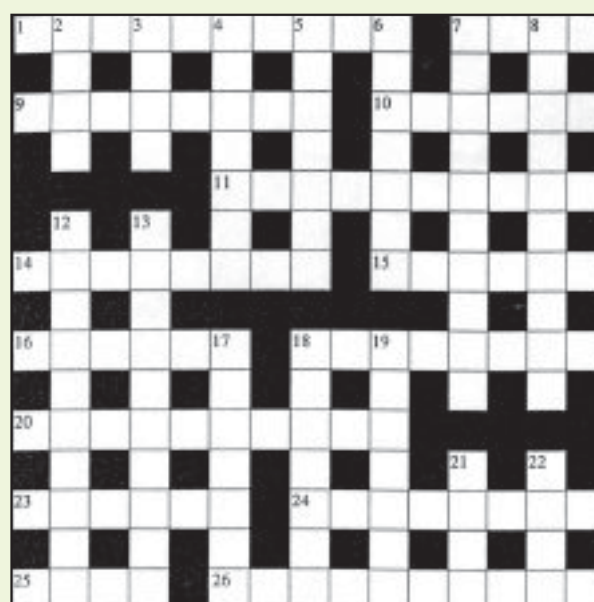
ACROSS

- 1 Start too soon in spring hunt eg confused (4,3,3)
7 Use one's teeth when about to cut (4)
9 A cod Anna prepared for low creature (8)
10 The merchant was booked in Italian city (6)
11 Fair and honest transaction by old-fashioned port (6,4)
14 Three-monthly perhaps (8)
15 Leg you injured whilst writing in praise of another (6)
16 Some most affable island (6)
18 Rescue rope found in one's palm (8)
20 Clever with cash that's a wise investment (5-5)
23 Prefer taste that's not left inside (6)
24 Supercilious horseman (8)
25 Describe devil trapping venerable saint (4)
26 Does it have a circle of members? (6,4)

DOWN

- 2 Skeletal part of incomplete lunar construction (4)
3 Choose to be a guitar player? (4)
4 Worker's lad personally involved (5-2)
5 Advancing slowly when it isn't steep (7)
6 Overturned vehicle, rear damaged, in northeastern Spain (7)
7 May two ladies have bell-shaped flower? (6,4)
8 Was substituting bartering (10)
12 Coppers Thomas manufactured built to a client's order (6-4)
13 Neutral area at railway terminus? (6,4)
17 Married frenzied lover (7)
18 Design etched on floor-covering first (7)
19 What bird will do at motorway intersection (7)
21 Man having cold drink first (4)
22 Some nutritious items are included in it (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Leave from work (10)
7 US tramp (4)
9 ___ Juillet, Bastille Day (8)
10 Gaoler (anag.) (6)
11 Run-down car (4,6)
14 Felled (8)
15 Distend (6)
16 Part of speech (6)
18 Go across (8)
20 Steeplechase rider (4-6)
23 Encipher (6)
24 New (8)
25 Gloomy (4)
26 Rotting (10)

DOWN

- 2 Cuckoo-pint (4)
3 Tub (4)
4 Small moth (7)
5 Folded (7)
6 Readable (7)
7 Flying machine (10)
8 Sterility (10)
12 Chaparral cock (10)
13 Dogmatic (10)
17 Binge (5-2)
18 Escort (4,3)
19 Amenity (anag.) (7)
21 Record (4)
22 Beige (4)

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EASY

9	1	6	2	7	3	8	5	4
2	5	8	4	9	7	3	1	
7	3	4	1	8	5	9	6	2
8	2	9	5	3	7	4	1	8
5	7	1	4	6	8	2	9	3
4	6	3	9	1	2	5	9	7
1	8	7	3	9	4	6	2	5
6	9	5	7	2	1	3	4	8
3	4	2	8	5	6	1	7	9

MEDIUM

7	1	9	3	4	6	5	2	8
8	4	3	7	2	5	6	1	9
2	5	6	9	8	1	7	4	3
3	8	5	4	1	7	9	6	2
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9	7	1	2	6	3	4	9	5
1	3	2	5	9	4	8	7	6
4	9	7	6	3	8	2	5	1
5	6	8	1	7	2	3	9	4

HARD

7	6	4	3	8	5	1	2	9
1	3	8	9	6	2	5	7	4
9	2	5	1	7	4	8	6	3
4	9	6	8	5	1	2	3	7
8	7	3	6	2	9	4	1	5
5	1	2	7	4	3	9	6	8
6	4	1	5	3	7	8	9	2
2	8	7	4	9	6	3	5	1
3	5	9	2	1	8	7	4	6

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No94

ACROSS: 1 Ice-skating 6 Swap 9 Voice 10 Oath 11 Star 13 Light as a feather 14 Exhuming 16 Idiocy 18 Paling 19 Queendom 22 Job satisfaction 24 Milk 25 Smug 26 Ionic 27 Soya 28 Brute force. DOWN: 1 Involve 2 Eying 3 Kleptomaniac 4 Thousand 5 Notify 7 Watchword 8 Portray 12 Handkerchief 15 Hillbilly 17 Bunfight 18 Pyjamas 20 Manacle 21 Zimmer 23 Inner.

QUICK SOLUTION No95

Disc 22 Pawn. 17 Booze-up 18 Take out 19 Anytime 21 Tortrix 5 Creased 6 Legible 7 Helicopter 8 Barrenness 12 Roadrunner 13 Peremptory 14 Putrescent. DOWN: 2 Arum 3 Bath 4 Jockey 23 Encode 24 Original 25 Grey 26 Expand 16 Adverb 18 Travel 20 Jump 10 Galore 11 Rust bucket 14 Poleaxed 15

ACROSS: 1 Sabbath 7 Hobo 9 Quatorze

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

yourmaidstonegetaways

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It's downhill (nearly) all the way

■ BY SARAH O'MEARA

A 300-MILE bicycle ride in the searing summer heat of southern France, with only a bottle of Fanta and a banana for fuel, is few people's idea of a civilised holiday.

Yet touring the Perigueux prefecture of France's Dordogne region for seven days, we would change hotel every couple of nights, our luggage following safely behind in a van.

Heaving our bags into his van, our Headwater rep made it clear that we could stop worrying about unforeseen circumstances. For the next seven days, the only variable was the weather.

The Dordogne Gastronomic Cycling trip has been running for 10 years and pedalled into perfection.

Our detailed itinerary gave a choice of two different routes each day. Depending on our energy levels, and how much fried duck and red wine we'd had the night before, we would cycle anything from 12 to 25 miles per day.

Our rep, sweetly, gave us a real ordnance survey map, but in reality, comprehensive printed instructions with diagrams from Headwater were far too user-friendly to resist. This part of France is ideal for those new to cycling holidays.

The routes are quiet and made up almost entirely of back roads, well-maintained farm tracks and cycle paths.

There are also plenty of hills of varying difficulties. Once I'd discovered the joy of the cycling up a hill, getting a hit of endorphins and then whooping my way down the other side, there was no stopping me.

After a few days, I found myself looking forward to steep inclines.



REWARD: Pedalling up a steep hill is worth it when a view like this is waiting for you at the top

Free from transport restraints, high on exercise and blessed with perfect weather, we really did feel as though we'd been tapped with the holiday fairy's wand.

In fact, our only real responsibility was to find the hotel marked in the itinerary every other evening. And that wasn't difficult.

Cycling for four hours every day also meant that we felt guiltless about eating plenty of food. We'd happily consume a large dish of pan-fried duck with olives from a roadside restaurant at lunch, before sitting down to four courses in the evening just hours later.

When we needed a break from our saddles, there was usually something a little bit special on the horizon. As well as the countless chateaux, and wonderful restaurants, this area is also the home of Cro-Magnon man, one of the earliest recorded humans.

The site of Lascaux, close to the delightful town of Montignac, is where 17,000-year-old cave paintings were discovered almost 70 years ago. Unfortunately for tourists, these prehistoric images are now carefully protected from carbon-dioxide damage, and only copies are on public display.

FACT FILE: FRANCE

Time difference	+One hour
Capital	Paris
Climate	Temperate
Population	62.5 million
Currency	£1 = 1.4 Euros
Religion	Catholic
Language	French

Travel details

Sarah O'Meara was a guest of Headwater Holidays on a Dordogne Gastronomic Cycling Tour, packages available from May to September from £1,098 to £1,227 per person (child £699 all season) for self-drivers who go by Eurotunnel. Prices for air-rail packages (based on Gatwick-Toulouse by BA) range from £1,199 to £1,299 (child £849 all season).

Tour only prices: £1,049 to £1,179 (child £679).

Singles: add £25 per night

Package includes half-board accommodation, bike hire, local transfers, maps and route notes, bag transport, 24-hour emergency support.

Headwater reservations: 01606 720 033 and www.headwater.com.



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- Time for businesses to pay on time
- Dealing with the pension fallout
- Getting on the gold bandwagon
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Essential guide to where you can save

■ Lexterten Furniture in Westgate on Sea is offering £100 off elevating TV cabinets

■ Oliver Carpets Carpets in Ramsgate, Heme Bay and Cliftonville is offering 10 per cent off when you spend more than £600

■ Maidstone Kia in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off all accessories

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering dine in the Verve Grill and upgrade a 6oz fillet steak to an 8oz or a 10oz sirloin for the same price

■ JC Farley furniture store in Ramsgate is offering 10 per cent off all lift and rise chairs and motion beds

■ KOS is offering a porous seepage hose, saving you time and money and using up to 70 per cent less water. From only £19.99, save £35 on RRP

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a free tomato and mozzarella flatbread when you buy a bottle of rose wine in the Victory pub

■ Addictive Bikes in Ramsgate is offering five per cent off all bikes

■ Chart Hills Golf Club in Biddenden is offering 10 per cent off all food and beverages

■ Robins and Day Maidstone Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering £29.99 services and MOTs from £119.99

■ KOS is offering a Pulsar military-style chronograph watch. Save £20 – offer price £49.99, RRP £69.99

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Summer savings for our readers

COMPANIES' traditionally fight their battles against rival firms in the same sector.

But in the current economic situation, firms with an eye on the future are equally engaged with a fight against the conditions in the marketplace.

In this latest edition of Money Matters we offer some advice from the experts on how firms can keep themselves fighting fit by taking steps to avoid becoming the victims of fraudsters – from inside and outside the organisation.

There are also some top tips for individuals planning their pensions, and individuals looking for

a safe place for their savings. Gold is making a comeback, and you may soon even be able to buy it from a vending machine.

We also feature some of the many money-saving offers available at vouchersforkent.co.uk. There are offers for leisure, food and drink; motors and servicing; retail trades and services; and

also from members of the Canterbury Independent Traders.

It really couldn't be more easy to do. Just flick through the online books, print out the offers you want, and then start saving money.

Summer puts us all in a good mood, and we hope these offers will help you to make the most of the sunny months.

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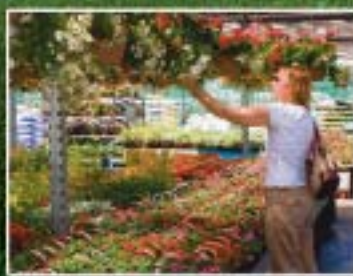
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SURVIVOR'S MESSAGE: IT consultant and director of HDG Networks Ltd, Jonathan Gwyer

Refusing to be bowed or beaten

By **TONY PATEY**

WHITSTABLE businessman Jonathan Gwyer is not allowing the current economic crisis to get him down.

Mr Gwyer, 37, wears a badge that states: 'I refuse to participate in a recession.' And he wants more people to do the same.

He said: "It seems some people have written off the year. We are still proactive and positive."

As an IT consultant and director of HDG Networks Ltd, the father-of-four is also chapter director of the local BNI, a business networking body.

Mr Gwyer admits there have been some hairy moments through the financial problems of the past year "like the moment Iceland's Icesave bank went into receivership."

"That was just before Christmas, and all of our capital was in that bank. We were very relieved when the Government rescued depositors."

At a time now when many large and small businesses are struggling, HDG Networks is confident that it can still be business as usual.

"I am finding that as a smaller business with lower overheads, we are getting work with companies that are trying to grow while keeping costs down."

"In a recent job, I was called in and the company in question had been quoted more than £4,000 for an expansion of their IT system."

"We were able to give them a more bespoke solution, and it wasn't necessary for them to spend anywhere near so much money. They were delighted."

"In a crisis such as this, businesses must adapt and we will do what it takes."

"We're doing everything from installing wireless and broadband in homes or offices, to building websites, teaching people how to run their own website or breathing new life into old PCs, in fact pretty much any kind of IT support."

Mr Gwyer set up HDG Networks in 2007, after 16 years at the drugs giant Pfizer in Sandwich.

He said: "I knew I could offer small businesses the kind of support that big business demands but within their own budgets."

"My wife, Helen, supported me all the way with my decision, I think she wondered what took me so long."

To find out how you can get your own badge, contact Mr Gwyer at www.hdgnet.com.

BNI
I refuse to participate in a recession.

Business of identity theft

ONE of our clients had its registered office changed without the company's knowledge.

This was done by someone simply printing off a filed form with the company secretary's name on and then tracing the signature onto form 287, enabling the change of registered office. The address remained changed for a period of some 14 days before the fraud was discovered by the company's auditors on a routine visit and corrective action taken.

The threat

Companies House estimates that there are between 50-100 cases of corporate identity fraud every month. While this is against a backdrop of tens of thousands of documents received each month, the cost incurred by British business as a result of corporate identity fraud has been estimated at more than £50 million each year.

Obtaining or changing a company's identity is surprisingly straightforward.

For example, a fraudster may file a change of registered office notice or change of directors' details at Companies House by signing one simple form. No great legal knowledge is required and copies of a serving company officer's signature are readily available from Companies House.

They accept paper documentation in 'good faith' and as such, will register documentation received without sending any further notification to a company that its details have been changed.

It is perfectly possible therefore, for a fraudster to appoint him or herself as a director of a target company, or alternatively change the target company's registered office address to one which the fraudster has access.

If you think identity theft only applies to individuals, then think again. **David Hallett**, a solicitor in the commercial team at Kent law firm Buss Murton, analyses corporate identity theft in the county

Once the registered office address has been successfully changed, all Companies House notices will be sent there.

Even worse, a customer or supplier may only send money or goods to the new registered office address as a matter of policy rather than sending those goods or money to the company's established trading address.

The fraudster only needs to be successful once at intercepting money or goods before targeting another company. Inevitably, by the time the company or authorities learn of the fraudulent activity, the fraudster will have moved and the postal address will be vacant.

The solution

However, there are procedures that can be put in place that will help to dramatically reduce the threat of identity fraud. These include:

1. Online filing. Every UK company is able to register for an authentication code (much like a pin number) with Companies House. Upon registration for this code a company is then able to submit certain documents (such as the annual return, 288a (appointment of a director) and 287 (change of registered office address) online. The use of online filing substantially reduces the risk of such documents going astray in the postal system.

2. PROOF scheme. Once a company has obtained an authentication code from Companies House, the company can then sign

up to the Protected Online Filing Service (known as PROOF). Once signed up (using form PR1), Companies House will then not accept paper copies of the forms listed under point 1 above. These documents will only be accepted electronically (submitted using the authentication code). Therefore, provided the authentication code is kept safe and treated as if it were a bank account pin number, then the chances of a fraudster being able to change a company's identity are dramatically reduced.

3. Monitor. Companies or individuals can register so that they are automatically notified of all changes that occur to a company's details held at Companies House. The cost of this service can be as little as 50p per year. Once signed up to a monitoring service, the nominated individual will receive an automatic update as soon as Companies House accepts and files a document in relation to a chosen company.

In addition to this, company information should always be stored securely and any information that is to be destroyed should be done so securely (as you would when destroying personal information such as your bank statements).

• **David Hallett is a solicitor in Buss Murton LLP's company and commercial department in Tunbridge Wells. He can be contacted at the firm's Tunbridge Wells office on 01892 502306.**

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■ KOS is offering a Peers Hardy leather handbag and free umbrella for £19.99

■ Lexterten furniture store in Westgate-on-Sea is offering £300 off all dining suite orders over £2,000

■ Wells Clinic, beauty treatment shop in Ashford is offering £50 off skin lifting and tightening, lines and wrinkle reduction treatment (b/tox)

■ Canterbury Mazda Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering £29.95 on MOTs while you wait

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a free bowl of strawberries and cream when you buy a two course meal in the Victory Pub

■ JC Farley furniture store in Ramsgate is offering half-price duvet and pillows with every bed purchased

■ Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Bronze Care Petrol or Diesel £109

■ Hazel Motors in Chatham is offering £14 off registered retail price for class 4 MOTs and £7.70 off class 7 MOTs

■ KOS is offering Traditional Barbeque Grill and Oven 'Smoker Bags' for £14.99

■ KOS is offering a saving of £200 on the Toyota CB04T Mark II sewing machine, only £99.99 inc p&p, RRP £299.99

■ Caffyns Vauxhall Motor Dealer in Tunbridge Wells is offering £35 MOT

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■ Secure Style, the windows doors and conservatories store in Herne Bay, is offering 30 per cent off windows and doors

■ KOS is offering a Doro 338 GSM big button mobile phone for £99.99

■ Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Silver Care Petrol or Diesel £139

■ Bourne Road Motor Dealer in Crayford is offering a free tank of fuel with all Mazda purchases new and used

■ KOS is offering an all-seasons duck duvet, two duvets that button together from only £39.99. Save over 50 per cent. Various sizes available

■ Caffyns Vauxhall Motor Dealer in Tunbridge Wells is offering £250 off used vehicle when you present this voucher

■ Old Sawmills in Ashford is offering a £995 Mahogany Computer Desk, now £495

■ KOS is offering the Extreme Bra for £24.99

■ KOS is offering Zero Gravity Recliner Chair from £124.99

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

A timely code for

Big businesses make a pledge to increase the speed of payments to smaller companies

CREDIT management experts have welcomed a pledge from big businesses to pay invoices from suppliers on time.

The Institute of Credit Management (ICM) said it hoped the companies would live up to their word to pay on time and sign the Prompt Payment Code.

Some 11 new high-profile companies including Barclays, Sony UK, Sky and B&Q have committed to sign the code, as part of a campaign designed to help increase the speed of payments to smaller companies.

The code, developed with the ICM and supported by major business organisations, aims to establish a clear and consistent policy, and a climate of greater certainty in the payment of business-to-business invoices.

It is being hosted by the ICM at www.prompt-paymentcode.org.uk and includes a facility for suppliers to raise concerns about late payers.

The code focuses on three main areas: a commitment to pay suppliers on time; to give clear guidance to suppliers; and to encourage good practice.

The Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform group and the ICM have also issued a leaflet highlighting the benefits of paying on time and why it is important to become a

■ BY TONY PATEY

signatory to the Prompt Payment Code.

Business minister Shriti Vadera said: "Late payment can be the final straw for small business in the current climate.

"So the commitment by major companies heading up supply chains to pay on time is a win for all businesses."

Lovetts, one of the UK's leading debt recovery law firms has revealed that companies are 'going legal' on unpaid invoices a whopping 39 days sooner than a year ago.

The findings suggest that in the current economic downturn, businesses are only too mindful of the impact of late payments on cash flow and are acting quickly to reduce their exposure to bad debt.

Survival

Lovetts analysed the Letters Before Action (LBAs) issued on behalf of its customers in February 2009 against the same month in 2008, which revealed a 39-day acceleration in clients 'going legal'. LBAs are used to secure payment, or to obtain a response from a customer before the commencement of a claim.

Chairman and managing director of Lovetts,

Charles Wilson, said: "With recent news that the number of British businesses that fail is set to rise to 36,000 in 2009, the equivalent of one in every 56 companies, businesses are only too acutely aware of the potential for bad debt and the devastating impact this can have on their own survival.

"With all businesses trying to manage cash flow when there is little credit available, it's a spiral of suppliers chasing customers for money they are reluctant to release.

"The previous attitude towards frequent late payers may have been accepting and forgiving, but the current tough climate is pushing businesses to press for payment on time in order to protect themselves.

"Our figures certainly suggest that British businesses are determined not to be victims of bad debt and will employ all the tactics available to get paid, including pursuing debt through the courts.

"In particular it is encouraging to see that a growing number of companies are exercising their right to charge for compensation and interest on late payments.

"In this economic climate businesses need to ensure they are tackling late payment and bad debt head on. For small businesses in particular, it can be a matter of survival or failure."

To keep the cash flowing Lovetts suggests businesses consider the following actions:

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late payers



SURVIVAL: Paying on time can be vital to help small companies survive the recession

- Bring your collection cycle forward, the sooner you get on top of potential debt problems, the better
- Seek compensation and interest through late payment legislation earlier and apply it on an invoice-by-invoice basis
- If you have interest provisions in your terms, consider whether they are sufficiently robust. Businesses with a rate linked to bank base rates are vulnerable here. Scrap the provision and rely on the 'late payment' legislation which gives eight per cent interest

over base rate, but don't forget to circulate the new terms to your customers.

- Instruct debt recovery lawyers early
- Avoid throwing good money after bad by conducting a credit-check. If the debtor is clearly struggling, negotiate realistic instalment payments or consider a discount for immediate payment.
- If the decision is to issue a claim, be resolute in pursuing it. If the debtor asks for invoices, supply copies and any information they want quickly.



* Eridge expected to open during 2009. Please check website or see local press for latest

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Sat 22 August Wine & Dine Curry Special For the price of £20, passengers can enjoy two round trips of the line whilst they enjoy a choice from four curries, served with an accompaniment of Basmati Rice, Mini Naan Bread, Poppadums, Mango Chutney and Riata. Passengers will also receive an ice cream desert followed by Tea or Coffee to round off the evening. Licensed Bar car will also be open	Sat/Sun/Mon 29/30/31 August Bank Holiday Specials
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■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a jug of sangria, Carling or Worthington for only £8.95 when you visit the Victory pub

■ KOS is offering ultra-slim Danish Skagen watches for men and women at only £69.99, a saving £20 on the RRP

■ EC Bates motorbikes shop in Dartford is offering zero per cent finance on selected Yamaha and Suzuki models

■ KOS is offering a leather organiser handbag by Jane Shilton for only £49.99 inc p&p, saving £40 off RRP

■ The Orchard Restaurant in Maidstone is offering Meal Deals Monday-Saturday 7.30pm-9pm. Select a main meal and alcoholic or soft drink for £4.95

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a complimentary Strawberry Shortcake stack when you buy two courses in the Verve Grill

■ KOS is offering Egyptian cotton 400-count percale bed linen. Save 40 per cent off RRP

■ KOS is offering Solar Powered Bird Bath, save £30. Offer price £119.99 RRP £149.99

■ Homewood Orchard Garden Centre in Maidstone is offering £2 off all scrubs

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 TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

By JEREMY GATES

WHEN two of Britain's leading firms announced big cutbacks to company pension schemes last month, they highlighted once again the problems facing millions of private-sector workers when they stop work.

BP closes its final salary pension scheme to new entrants from April, 2010, while Barclays Bank is taking 18,000 staff out of its final-salary scheme and into an inferior defined contributions (DC) scheme, albeit with some protection against swings in the stock market.

Barclays currently pays £350 million a year into its pension fund.

Although both schemes will be superior to the average company DC scheme, the events suggest final-salary schemes could soon vanish altogether in the private sector.

Britain's biggest FTSE 100 companies, facing total pension fund deficits of nearly £30 billion, have little option if they are to survive the recession.

Morrisons last month switched 4,500 workers from a final-salary pension scheme into one based on average salary, while BT's share price continues to suffer from fears about its huge pension fund deficit.

Nearly three-quarters of a million British workers retire in 2009 and with the value of pensions assets held around the world slashed by more than £3bn since 2007, many will have trouble making ends meet.

A survey of people aged 60-plus by Intune, the financial services provider owned by Age Concern and Help The Aged, says 55 per cent of private pension holders are disappointed with the income they expect to get.

If they could do it all again, some 39 per cent would have started a pension earlier or paid more into it. Many would have switched pension contributions into a savings account or an ISA investment, or paid the mortgage off much faster.

Pensions are put under pressure

Mervyn Kohler, special advisor to Age Concern and Help The Aged, said: "Around 680,000 people are hitting retirement age this year, and more may be looking at buying an annuity earlier because they have been made redundant."

The downturn is savaging private sector pensions. Anybody with a £50,000 pension pot retiring in 2009 will be 27 per cent worse off – around £20 per week – than somebody who quit in 2008.

Laith Khalaf, pensions analyst at financial advisor Hargreaves Lansdown, said: "Many firms are likely to follow Barclays and BP over the next two years, although the new BP scheme, with total contributions at 15 per cent of salary, will still be pretty good."

Struggling

"As they see the markets recover, firms will close off final salary schemes to ensure they do not hit another downturn with that millstone around their necks."

Approaching 60, most people can do little about their pension income. By then, it's too late.

At 30 or 40, however, there is still time to make sensible financial preparations for old age.

If you start saving for a pension at 25, about 15 per cent of salary should go into a pension pot. At 35, it should be 20 per cent, and thereafter a higher percentage, the later you start.

In fact, the average contribution into private-sector pensions is barely 10 per cent – and two-thirds of private-sector workers have no personal pension scheme in place at all.

Here are the options for workers struggling to find value for money from a private-sector pension scheme:

- Give up – don't put a penny in your pension. Anybody retiring on the basic State pension (£95.25 per week) and no other savings can claim Pension Credit for £130 per week.

- Once you're in a pension scheme, stick at it – because your employer probably tops up your monthly contribution.

- However, if your employer's scheme isn't particularly attractive, put other money into an alternative savings vehicle – a tax-free ISA perhaps, or alternative personal pension, or even a Self Invested Personal Pension (SIPP) which allows a wider choice of funds, chosen with or without expert advice.

- Drawdown option: if your fund is a minimum £100,000 and you have other savings besides your pension, there may be a case for taking the 25 per cent tax-free lump sum on retirement and leaving the rest invested.

Then you buy an annuity at any time you like until the age of 75.

- Delay your State pension, rather than your private one. On your State pension, each one-year delay adds 10.4 per cent to weekly income – so a £100 pension is worth £110.40 if it was started a year ago. If you defer a State pension at 65 for one year, you make up all the money lost by age 76.

- Don't rush off to the public sector, where pensions provision is more generous and guaranteed by the taxpayers.

Even though five million public-sector workers are still guaranteed final salary pensions, there's a possibility hard-up governments will have to cut the 'perk' in due course because it will look ridiculously unfair compared to the problems already facing private-sector workers.

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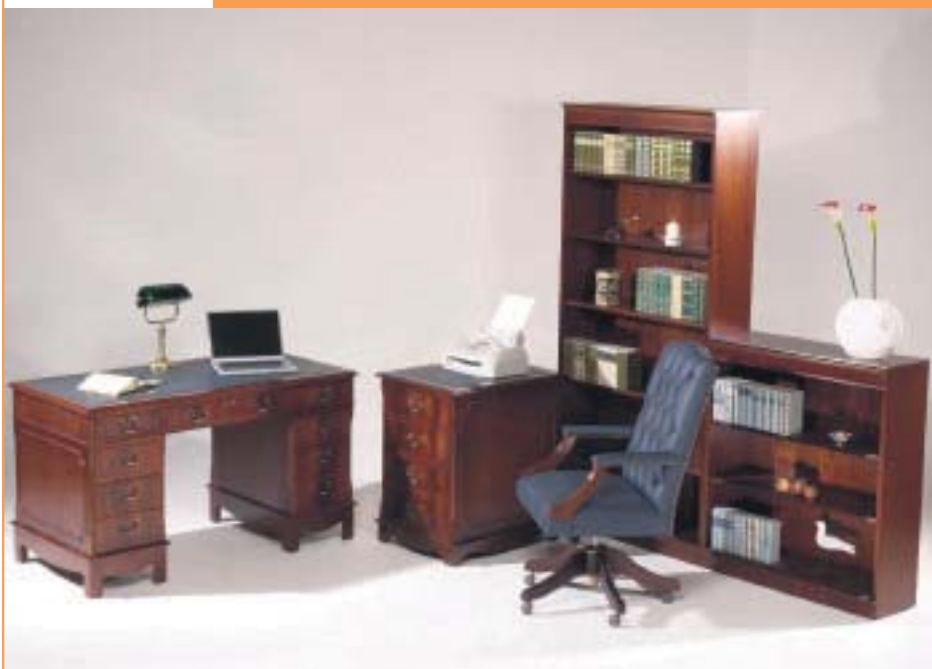
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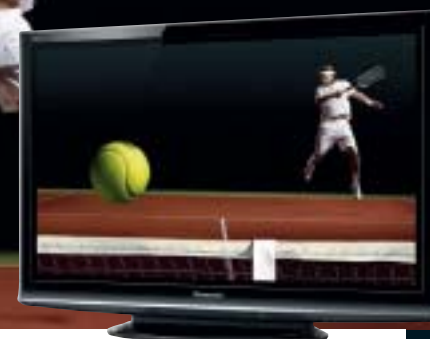
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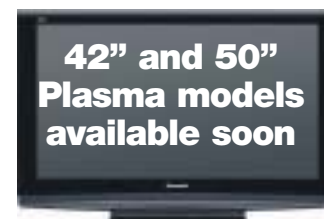
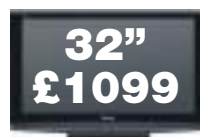
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Golden times for savvy savers

BY JEREMY GATES

ANY savers and investors unsettled by the recent disagreement between the Governor of the Bank of England and the Chancellor of the Exchequer over financial regulation might be consulting their budget-airline timetables.

It was confirmed last week that Germany will introduce gold vending-machines as a new method of storing wealth.

While gloomy Britons contemplate poor returns on cash and shares, shoppers at Frankfurt Airport can buy a one-gram wafer of gold for £25, or a 10g bar for £245 – with gold coins also available if required.

“German investors have always preferred to hold a lot of personal wealth in gold, for historical reasons. They have twice lost everything,” the owner of the firm installing 500 Gold to Go machines in German-speaking countries told the Financial Times.

But with gold prices from machines about 30 per cent higher than market prices for the cheapest product, even Germans – who bought 108 tonnes of gold in 2008, up from 36 tonnes in 2007 – might have doubts about this new scheme.

Few dispute, however, that gold has been a strong performer in recent financial earthquakes.

Adrian Ash, head of research at BullionVault, an online service for gold bullion investment with 14,000 private investors worldwide, said somebody selling a home at the average price in Britain in 2004 could have bought 695 ounces of gold (at £220 per ounce) with the cash.

Today, with gold up to £603 an ounce, they could buy the average-price home back for 253 ounces. Or they could sell all the gold to buy 2.7 average-price houses.

In the intervening period, of course, they would have needed to stay with friends or family. Even 695 ounces of gold doesn't put a roof over your head.

“Real interest rates in the UK have averaged just 1.8 per cent so far this decade – barely two-fifths the real return on cash in the 1980s and 1990s,” Ash explained.

“The gold price in sterling, in contrast, has risen four-fold and more, as money's competitive

edge as a store of wealth has been steadily eroded. Physical gold ownership looks attractive to individuals worried about the future of savings.

“Gold's appeal is only likely to grow until real returns paid to cash turn sharply higher.”

Financial advisor Hargreaves Lansdown (HL) leaves share tips off the front page of its latest newsletter to small clients, and makes a case for gold instead.

“Given the current economic environment, it is time to revisit the merits or otherwise of the ‘yellow metal’,” says HL's Richard Hunter.

“It has proved a remarkably resilient store of value over hundreds of years, and in addition is an asset where investors seek protection when they need it most.”

He notes the net inflow of funds into all types of gold investment soared 80 per cent to a record £18 billion in 2008, despite falling demand for gold jewellery in India and the Middle East.

Many of HL's small investors use the BlackRock Gold & General fund to gain exposure to gold markets. It holds shares in 40-70 companies, most of them gold producers.

“It is realistic to have five per cent of your long-term savings in this fund,” says HL's Mark Dampier.

“Gold may be a fickle animal, but given serious geopolitical and economic problems, there is reason to see gold prices going significantly higher from here.”

There are various way for individuals to hold gold: Exchange Traded Funds, jewellery, coins (sovereigns or kruggerands) and bars, or derivatives which track gold prices among them.

Mining shares are another option. Hunter reckons a five per cent rise in gold prices triggers a 10-15 per cent hike in share prices, though this effect works equally strongly in the opposite direction.

At discount broker Killik & Co, analyst Mike Gilligan says: “Investor scepticism about the rationale for gold investment is valid, given that it is a non-income-producing asset hard to value from a fundamental perspective.”

“However, the macroeconomic case for higher gold prices remains intact.”

“The recent spike in gold prices on the back of plans for US quantitative easing serves to reinforce our view that gold will serve as an insurance policy against inflationary pressures and/or economic dislocation.”

Volatile

Gilligan thinks gold demand could soar if Japan and China eventually reduce their vast dollar surpluses.

Frank Cochran, at financial advisor FSC Investment Services, notes that BlackRock Gold and General has performed “out of its skin”.

“Available data suggests gold prices going higher from here,” he said.

“In a high-risk portfolio, we might have 25 per cent in this fund. Lower-risk investors prefer five-10 per cent. The fund is a long-term hold, for capital growth rather than income.”

The downside is that gold's price remains highly volatile: since February, for example, the price has dropped from £700 to £576 per ounce, a fall of 18 per cent.

If Chancellor Alistair Darling has it right, the ‘green shoots’ of recovery might return us to a financial world we know and understand.

If it doesn't, the attractions of gold are likely to increase, even if few of us are ready to buy at a vending-machine.



BANKER: The financial attractions of gold investment are likely to increase

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Red tape, a growing cost for businesses

BY **ANDREW JONES**

SMALL businesses in the South East lose more than £1.4 billion every year due to government red tape, new figures have shown.

Research carried out by small business lobby and support group the Forum of Private Business (FPB) found firms in the region spend around £1,403 million each year complying with legislation – the highest amount for any region in the UK.

The figure, drawn up using feedback from FPB members, means entrepreneurs in the South East face the biggest bill in the country for carrying out the paperwork associated with running a small business.

The £1.4bn figure for the region, based on the amount of company time and money spent complying with the rules, includes £309m spent on health and safety legislation, £361m spent dealing with paperwork on employment law and £37m on dismissals and redundancy.

The work associated with staff absences cost £59m, costs associated with maternity came in at £36m and the work related to disciplinary issues was worked out at £49m.

FPB spokesman Matt Goodman said: "Our research shows complying with red tape remains one of the major cost burdens facing smaller businesses, swallowing up valuable time and money that could be used more profitably elsewhere."

"In addition, at a time when protecting both workers and businesses should be a priority, regulations are increasingly burdensome as businesses take on more staff."

Micro businesses (zero to nine employees) spend an average of 33 hours per month complying with regulations, small businesses (10 to 49 employees) 48 hours per month and medium-sized companies (50 to 249 employees) 131 hours – equivalent to one full-time member of staff.

Employment law is the costliest bureaucratic burden, costing small businesses £2.4bn per year. Health and safety administration costs £2.1bn and tax £1.8bn per year, according to the FPB's research.

The average time per month spent on employment red tape (dismissals and redundancy, discipline, absence controls and management, parental leave, and holidays) is ten hours. For health and safety, it is eight hours.

Business owners spend an average of seven hours each month on tax administration, four on building and property regulations, four on standards, three on environment and waste regulations, and an hour per month on equality and diversity.



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Businesses' cash flow

By **TONY PATEY**

BUSINESS owners and managers across Kent are reducing costs, becoming more transparent, and investing in customer service in a bid to keep clients happy and avoid losing valuable business.

That's the picture revealed by new research from independent invoice financier Bibby Financial Services.

While it's not surprising that nearly two thirds (61 per cent) of business owners in the South East are actively pursuing new business as a priority to ride out the downturn, many (55 per cent) appreciate the importance of protecting existing revenue by upping customer service levels.

Transparent

And, more than a third (42 per cent) of the region's business owners are actually increasing their spending on hospitality as a means of retaining existing customers.

In fact, with 44 per cent of small and medium-sized businesses in the South East under pressure from customers to reduce their costs, more than half (56 per cent) of business owners were in the process of trying to balance the books by negotiating better terms with their own suppliers.

The research also revealed one in three business owners in the South East are now more transparent with clients and customers, for example giving them an insight into future business plans.

Despite their best efforts to take control of



KEEPING GOING: Business owners and their managers are reducing costs as they try to keep hold of customers through the current economic climate. Research has also revealed that more than half of businesses (55 per cent) were appreciating the importance of protecting their existing revenue by improving their levels of customer service (far right)

their firm in these unsettling times, effectively managing late payment and improving cash flow is still a major concern for 60 per cent of SME owners in the region.

Bibby Financial Services South East spokesman Andy Leopold said: "The drive for new business is all very well, but not if you're putting your all-important existing client base at risk at the same time."

"While it's promising to see the measures South East businesses are putting in place to survive the recession – ones which will also set them in good stead for long-term success – it is clear cash flow is still a major priority for businesses."

"Although the Government has now introduced several measures aimed at increasing cash flow to small businesses, few of them really seem to be taking hold, not least because the banks are themselves still struggling with liquidity issues."

glings with liquidity issues.

"The important thing is for business owners in the region to look at all aspects of their cash flow situation, whether they need to tackle increasing late payment, or whether they need to change their pricing structure to stimulate client interest."

In most cases, newer business owners, for example those operating since 2006, are more likely to be open and transparent with clients and customers about their situation and future business plans, and least likely to be making changes in relation to cash flow.

Indeed, business owners without experience of previous recessions are least prepared to reduce costs for clients or customers.

In contrast, those who've been running their business for longer and have experienced several other recessions are more likely to view financial changes as a way to get



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their business through the recession.

When it comes to business sectors, those in transport are most likely to be following the cash is king mantra, with 86 per cent looking at managing late payment and improving cash flow, compared to just 46 per cent in the hotel and catering sector.

Mr Leopold said: "Irrespective of your experience, whether you're a new business owner or more practised, cash flow should always be your key priority."

"It is worth looking at all potential ways to

improve this, whether it be taking measures to improve client retention, negotiating supply chain deals, or even simply reviewing your finances.

"Taking steps such as talking to your bank to apply for an increased overdraft facility – though at the moment this could be easier said than done – or looking at other cash flow options, such as invoice finance, which frees up the value held in your outstanding invoices, will ensure you are able to focus efforts on getting your business through the recession."

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- KOS is offering a Garden Sonic Blaster for £29.99
- Addictive Bikes in Ramsgate is offering 10 per cent off all parts and accessories

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Buy a car to save cash

BY **STEVE LOADER**

IT MIGHT sound mad to buy a new car during a recession.

But with savings accounts earning so little, you will be surprised by what you can earn by waving your wad around in the car trade, where business has plummeted over the past year.

Fact is, there has been much hype about the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme launched in May (see later story), but there have been hefty discounts available on most new cars for months now – whether you have a 10-year-old ‘scrapper’ to trade or not.

Discounted

Even if, after raiding the bank account and teasing the dealer, your cash does not stretch to the discounted asking price, there are other deals that can be factored in, such as zero or low rate finance.

And don’t forget to ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or discounts on any little add-ons you might fancy.

Do your homework though to ensure you are not buying a car on ‘run-out’, where production or importing ceased a while ago, or one with the wrong engine.

After all, with fuel prices continuing to be volatile, you don’t want to trade in your old gas guzzler for another just as bad.

Buy wisely though and your new vehicle could save on fuel, insurance, road tax and even depreciation, though cars will always devalue – unless they achieve classic status.

You can also afford to congratulate yourself for offloading something less efficient in favour of a modern and more eco-friendly model.



GO GREEN: Enjoy the space and luxury of a greener big car like the new Vauxhall Insignia ecoFLEX rather than downsize, but check the higher purchase cost against lower running costs – you might be better off with the conventional Insignia equivalent

On the other hand, review what you have to part-exchange; you might have lost tons on that big 4x4, but work out what it will cost you to run it for the next three years – it might be a lot less than the cost of chopping it for a new car.

Road tax might also favour downsizing to a more efficient motor – gas guzzling limos or 4x4s face £950 a year road tax from next year – but road tax is still a relatively small part of the motoring budget for most of us.

Many superminis sit in the lowest road tax band of £35 a year and though you might be

tempted by new tax-exempt diesel eco models, just check the price against a standard version of the same car.

The eco supermini might save you £105 in road tax over three years, but how much will you pay upfront for it? A lot more.

So, check out conventional equivalents of eco models and don’t dismiss petrol power; that fuel is still cheaper and makes sense for lower mileage users, while emission and consumption levels are closing the gap on heavier diesel equivalents.

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Government's scrapheap challenge has taken flight

BY STEVE LOADER

IT WAS a dodgy take-off, but the Government's £2,000-a-go incentive to scrap older cars in return for new ones is now flying.

Applications have boomed, prompting fears that the £300 million fund set aside by the Treasury could be exhausted before the official cut-off date next March.

There is some talk of a top-up donation, but if you are considering swapping your banger then get your new car order in now – firm orders will be honoured even if the delivery of the new car is delayed.

The donor car must have been registered before August 31, 1999 and your name must have been on the V5 'logbook' for 12 months before the date your new car order is placed.

For their part, carmakers have mostly embraced the deal after initial disappointment that they would be expected to contribute half of each '£2,000 Government Scrappage grant' and noting that the Treasury would claw back some of its money through VAT on each car sale.

Some brands have even put extra money on the table on top of their £1,000 per unit as well as extra specification and zero per cent finance – though this is no longer a big deal when interest rates are so low.



BUDGET BUYS: The Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme has made newly-arrived small hatchbacks like the exotic Alfa Romeo MiTo (above) and Nissan Pixo city car (left) attractive to budget-conscious motorists with a banger to trade in

On the other hand, consumers with savings will know they are receiving precious little return and it is tempting to seek a psychological boost from buying a new motor that should be cheaper to fuel and tax.

And don't be despondent if you're not in a position to take advantage of Scrappage; with the exception of city cars and superminis, you should get a hefty discount on most new cars in the current climate without needing a banger to scrap.

If you have been out of the car market for a while though, do your research. You will

have heard that diesel cars now outsell petrol, but that is not the full picture.

They cost more and the extra weight can be wearing and intrusive in the smaller cars most in demand now and you need to cover many miles to recover the extra upfront outlay.

Meanwhile, petrol is making a comeback with lighter, small capacity turbocharged engines able to deliver diesel pulling power and lower emissions.

You might also consider a hybrid, but these cost more and this must also be weighed against the mileage you intend to cover.

Essential guide to where you can save

■ JC Farley furniture store in Ramsgate is offering a free dishwasher with every kitchen order over £7,000

■ Living Out log cabins shop in Chestfield, Maidstone, is offering 10 per cent off everything

■ Furniture Island in Folkestone is offering an extra five per cent off all garden furniture

■ Secure Style windows doors and conservatories store in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off conservatories

■ Bourne Road Motor Dealer in Crayford is offering free car mats with all Mazda purchases new and used

■ Decorators Choice in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off all paints

■ The Orchard Restaurant in Maidstone is offering Kids Eat for Free

■ Hazel Motors in Chatham is offering £20 off air conditioning

■ KOS is offering a Karcher pressure washer kit at £99.99 including free accessories, save £116 on RRP

■ KOS is offering Snuggly mattress topper from Slumberdown from only £69.99, save up to £40. Various sizes available

■ KOS is offering five Global knives set, scissors and block. Only £199.99, saving £150 off the RRP

■ KOS is offering big button digital cordless phone for just £24.99, save £20

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Drive smarter to save more

DOWNSIZING to a more fuel and tax efficient car should be just part of your master plan to cut the motoring budget.

The next stage involves smarter driving and journey planning and getting fitter by walking and cycling instead of using the car on short journeys – cold engines waste fuel and produce 60 per cent more emissions than warm ones.

Short car journeys also mean extra servicing and more engine wear.

SMALL SAVERS: Downsizing to modern cars like the latest generation Mazda3 or newly revised Renault Clio (right) can save money, but applying just a few driving tips will knock more pounds off your motoring bill



BY **STEVE LOADER**

If you must drive then follow these tips from the Institute of Advanced Motorists and RAC Foundation:

- Plan your route to save strain on car and driver. Take the most direct route – a sat nav can help – and go off peak if possible. Commuters should think about car sharing, Park and Ride bus schemes or other public transport.

- Have your vehicle serviced regularly. Neglected engines waste at least ten per cent more fuel and catalytic converters only clean emissions when properly maintained.

- Check tyres – under-inflated tyres need replacing more often (itself an environmental problem), are dangerous and waste fuel. Check pressures weekly.

- Obey speed limits to save money and stay legal. Feather the throttle as you reach cruising speed; 56mph uses 25 per cent less fuel than 70mph and a smoother driving style saves fuel.

- Accelerate briskly without

racing the engine – pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel. Intelligent gear changes at modest engine speeds can save up to 15 per cent in fuel.

- Reduce drag – remove roof racks and carriers when not in use and keep windows closed to avoid drag and wasted fuel. Remove unnecessary and heavy boot luggage and wide wheels and tyres that add rolling resistance. Air conditioning costs fuel too so try to use the fan and vents unassisted.

- Buy green fuel and use less. Look for low sulphur 'city' diesel or cleaner petrol (low sulphur/aromatics). Consider converting to LPG (liquid petroleum gas) – half the price of petrol and cleaner.

- Think ahead – there is no point rushing and then having to brake suddenly.

- Be a tank miser. Why fill the tank to the brim and burn more fuel carrying more weight than necessary?

- Stuck in traffic? Turn off the engine after two minutes to save fuel and emissions.

- For more eco driving tips see Julie Maddocks' online video report at: <http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community>.



Essential guide to where you can save

■ KOS is offering Personalised Weekender Bags for just £29.99

■ Maidstone Kia Motor Dealer in Maidstone is offering a free set of maps with any new car purchased before the end of September

■ Robins and Day Canterbury Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering MOTs for £29.99, and service and MOT from £119.99

■ Baileys Nissan Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off MOTs

■ Caffyns Vauxhall Motor Dealer in Tunbridge Wells is offering half-price MOT with a service

■ Old Sawmills furniture store in Ashford is offering 20 per cent off all showroom items

■ Chart Hills Golf Club in Biddenden is offering 10 per cent discount on all room hire

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering free loaded nachos worth £5.95 when you buy a bucket of six Mexican Sol beers from the Victory pub

■ Furniture Island in Folkestone is offering an extra 10 per cent off all sofas with this voucher

■ Linwood Electronics in Rainham is offering £100 off a Panasonic G10 series Plasma when you trade in your old TV

■ Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering air conditioning service for just £79.95+vat

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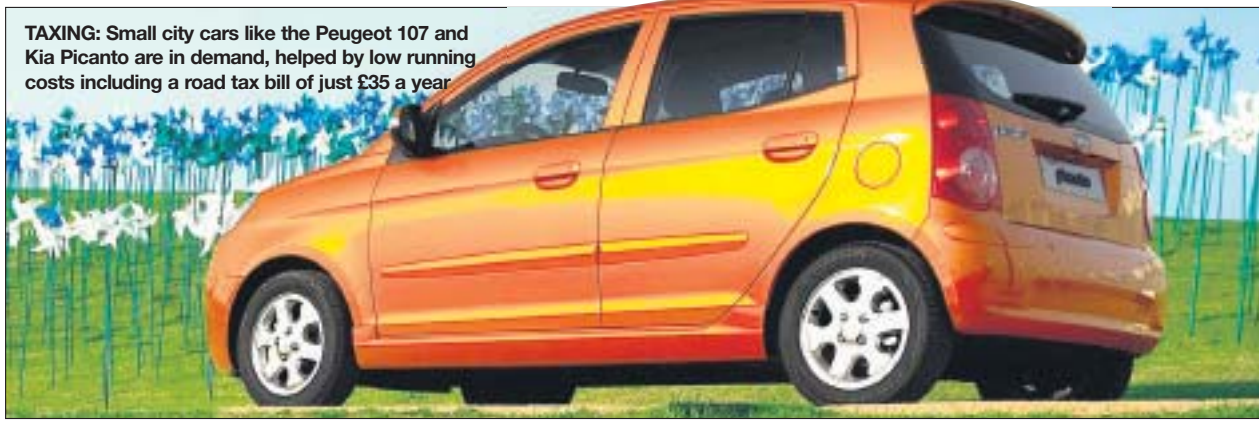
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TAXING: Small city cars like the Peugeot 107 and Kia Picanto are in demand, helped by low running costs including a road tax bill of just £35 a year



Duty calls for more savings

BY **STEVE LOADER**

WHATEVER you do, don't swap your current car just to save a few pounds on road tax.

On the other hand, Government efforts to tax 'gas guzzlers' off the road can further ease the burden on your motoring budget if you

ROAD TAX BANDS

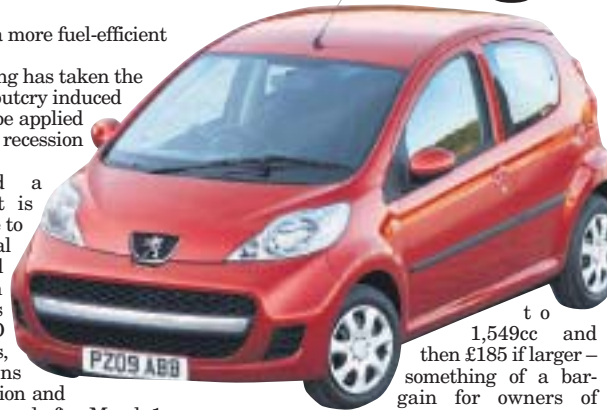
Band A (0-100g/km of CO₂) – £0
Bands B and C (101-120g/km) – £35
Bands D and E (121-140g/km) – £120
Band F (141-150g/km) – £125
Band G (151-160g/km) – £150
Bands H and I (161-180g/km) – £175
Bands J and K (181-225g/km) – £215
Band L (226-255g/km) – £405
Band M (255g/km plus) – £405

plan to downsize or go for a more fuel-efficient model.

Chancellor Alistair Darling has taken the pressure off a bit after an outcry induced by draconian rates due to be applied to larger cars, just as the recession clobbered the economy.

But Labour – and a Conservative government is unlikely to be different due to the world's environmental worries – has said it will continue to drive down vehicle sizes and emissions by using tough VED (Vehicle Excise Duty) rates, based on CO₂ emissions rather than fuel consumption and applying only to cars registered after March 1, 2001.

Inconsistent emissions data on older cars means these are taxed simply at £120/year up



to 1,549cc and then £185 if larger – something of a bargain for owners of older 'gas guzzlers' if they can bear higher fuel bills, opt for a £1,500-2,000 LPG (liquid petroleum gas) conversion or cover relatively few miles.

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Gold Care Petrol or Diesel, £169

■ KOS is offering a Pulsar Kinetic Watch for only £49.99 (inc p&p) no battery required, saving over 50 per cent on RRP

■ Baileys Nissan Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off all servicing

■ Homewood Orchard Garden Centre in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off its garden furniture range

■ Bones on Beds in Herne Bay is offering 10 per cent off mattresses

■ Living Out log cabins store in Chestfield, Maidstone, is offering free installation on all standard range of log cabins

■ Motoline Renault Motor Dealer in Canterbury, Ashford and Maidstone is offering £99 service and free MOT for vehicles three years and older

■ Bradgate Park Luxury Holiday Homes in Margate is offering free Sunday lunch for two when you view the holiday homes

■ Secure Style, windows doors and conservatories in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off fascias

■ KOS is offering Sun Blaster Glare Shields from £14.99

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda range: Urban 18.0 (15.7) – 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 31.0 (9.1) – 80.7 (3.5), Combined 24.6 (11.5) – 68.9 (4.3). CO₂ emissions (g/km) 107 – 299.

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PROPERTY NEWS

Couples forced to stay together by recession

DESPITE the start of an economic recovery, the recession is still making life hard for couples wanting to move on after divorce, according to family lawyers.

Resolution, which represents 75 family lawyers in Kent, says continuing problems in the housing market are preventing divorcing couples from moving to separate accommodation.

Family lawyer Daniel Bennett, of East Kent Resolution, said: "Selling the family home is often an important step for couples and their families making the transition from one home to two after divorce."

"But with limited mortgage deals, the increase in unemployment, and one in ten homeowners now in negative equity, selling up or moving on is easier said than done for many couples."

To help people in this situation, Resolution is today launching a series of online hints and tips for couples "living apart together" ahead of a national conference on family law in London.

These include trying to agree some ground rules, getting short breaks from one another and playing fair in regard to new partners or relationships.

But most importantly, don't lose heart, no recession lasts forever.

Repossession predictions are not looking so bad

GOOD news has come to those who are struggling to meet their mortgage payments following an analysis of the market by experts in lending.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders has cut its repossession forecast as experts say lower interest rates and Government initiatives were helping people stay in their homes.

The group has revised its prediction for repossessions during 2009 to 65,000 from a total of 75,000. But the figure is still the highest for 17 years and nearly two-thirds higher than the 40,000 people who lost their homes in 2008.

The group said rising unemployment would lead to an estimated 360,000 people falling into mortgage arrears of at least 2.5 per cent of their outstanding debt during 2009. Although its revised forecast is 15 per cent lower than the previous one, the figure still represents a doubling in the 182,600 of homeowners at this level at the end of last year.

Analysts said record low interest rates were making it easier for households who lost their incomes to keep up with their mortgage, while they also meant people built up arrears more slowly.



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Constructive approach to affordable housing

AS PART of the Government's Building Britain's Future plans, Housing Minister John Healey has announced that the construction of thousands of extra homes will begin in a matter of months.

The news comes after a £1.5 billion pound housing investment was revealed by the Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

The Housing Pledge places councils centre-stage and involves building more homes more quickly. It is also aimed at creating thousands of jobs in the construction industry.

Changes to the rules for allocating housing will also give councils a bigger role in meeting the needs of people in their area. The pledge also includes commitments to improve access to social housing by providing tenants and prospective tenants with more choice over the properties available, and commitments to clamp down on those cheating the system, so that more properties are available for those who play by the rules.

The cash boost will deliver an additional

■ BY NICK AMES

20,000 new, affordable, energy efficient homes over the next two years – with a further 10,000 delivered through the private sector.

Councils and housing associations will both have a key role in delivery of the new affordable homes. This money will also extend the programme to get stalled housing projects back on track and prepare public sector land for construction of new homes as well as provide up to 45,000 new jobs in the construction and related industries.

The announcement came the day before Mr Healey outlined proposals to allow councils to keep all the proceeds from their own council house sales, as well as their rents.

Mr Healey said: "The Prime Minister's housing pledge is a huge boost to efforts to build the homes the country needs now and in the future. This investment will help fast track construction and I want to see work starting on site within the next few months."

"Alongside the significant increase in housing stock we will also work with councils to

ensure the social housing system is responsive to local priorities and preferences.

"Together, these announcements signal my intention to get local authorities involved in delivering the housing their area needs."

"Councils haven't built significant numbers of housing for a long time, but with this extra cash and an overhaul of the council house funding system I am giving councils the green light to start building more homes in their area."

"And we are putting our money where our mouth is to fund new Housing Association developments, get mothballed housing projects back on track, and free up public land for more affordable homes."

"In these tough economic times this is also a much needed shot in the arm for the construction industry creating 45,000 new jobs in Britain that will be key to the country making the most of the recovery over the next few years."

"When people see these new homes being built in their communities they need to believe that they or people they know have a fair shot at living in them."

Developer builds bridges with mouse community

HOUSEBUILDER Ward Homes is protecting dormice at its development in Boughton Monchelsea by helping them to safely cross the road.

The dormice were discovered before construction of The Woodlands, a development of one and two-bedroom apartments and three-bedroom houses located just off Brishing Lane. Ward Homes has installed a specially constructed bridge, suspended between two telegraph poles, which allows the dormice to cross the road without danger.

Together with the site's ecological contractor, Keystone Environmental, Ward Homes has installed a galvanised mesh cylinder, the most ecological material to use for this construction.

The bridge has been made more attractive to the dormice by being filled with a variety of native climbing plant species, such as honeysuckle. The plants are also encouraged to grow up and along the bridge as a habitat for the mice and to enhance the structure. There is also a large funnel at each end of the bridge to help them find the entrance.

In addition to the bridge, Ward Homes has also planted a hedge along Brishing Lane to further develop the dormice habitat.

Tim Nabbs, sales director for Ward Homes said: "We feel it is of paramount importance to protect and preserve wildlife wherever we develop. Habitat fragmentation is a particular problem for dormice because of their reluctance to cross sections of open ground, so the bridge really is a tremendous benefit for them. It mimics tunnels found in their natural setting and is a safe way for them to travel."

"We choose the locations for all our developments with considerable care and are fully committed to enhancing the surroundings, making the most of natural features, such as mature trees and hedgerows."

"Our planners work closely with councils and the local community to identify sustainable solutions and our homes are consistently built on brownfield sites."

The Woodlands is a development just five miles from Maidstone.

HomeBuy Direct, the Government's scheme to help people move onto and up the property ladder, is available on selected properties at The Woodlands. It gives homebuyers the chance to move in for only 70 per cent of the purchase price.

Ward Homes will match the Government's



SKYWAY: A tunnel filled with climbing plants has been suspended between telegraph poles for the dormice

funding pound for pound in the new venture to provide an equity loan to the homebuyer of up to 30 per cent. The buyer finances the remaining 70 per cent either through a mortgage, a deposit or a combination of the two.

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Day Three - The Rose Bowl, Southampton - Thursday, 30th July - 11am.



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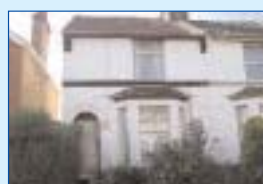
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Conversion Project of 10 Flats
Guide: £100,000 Plus



MARGATE
Three Bed House for Improvement
Guide: £70-80,000



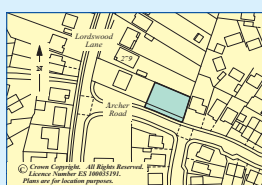
WEST MALLING
Cottage for Redecoration/Finishing
Guide: £130-150,000



CHATHAM
Residential/Commercial Investment
Guide: £320-330,000



BREDGAR
Village Cottage for Improvement
Guide: £140-150,000



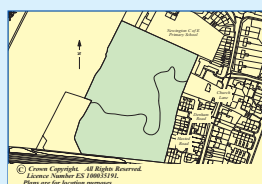
LORDSWOOD, CHATHAM
Individual Building Plot
Guide: £65-70,000



CHATHAM
Two Flats for Refurbishment
Guide: £60-65,000



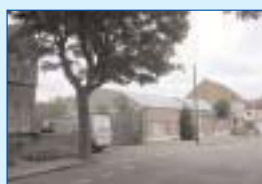
BREDHURST
9.6 Acres - Frontage to Bredhurst Rd
Guide: £45-50,000



NEWINGTON
Over 10 Acres Adjoining Residential
Guide: £60-65,000



SITTINGBOURNE
Office Space & Car Park with Potential
Guide: £140-150,000



GILLINGHAM
Commercial with Development Potential
Guide: £200-210,000



SITTINGBOURNE
Flat Investment Plus Ground Rents
Guide: £65-70,000



CRAYFORD
Semi Detached Houses with Potential
Guide: £215-225,000



ALLINGTON
Semi for Improvement
Guide: £150-160,000



MAIDSTONE
Ground Floor Town Centre Flat
Guide: £65-75,000



DARTFORD
Freehold Residential Investment
Guide: £95-105,000



BELVEDERE
3 Bedroom House for Improvement
Guide: £95-105,000



HARTLEY
Semi in Good Location
Guide: £180-200,000

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MAIDSTONE £74,995

A purpose built two bedroom ground floor flat with gas central heating and double glazing. The property does require some updating and is available with no forward chain.

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MAIDSTONE OIEO £85,000

One bedroom ground floor flat with on forward chain. Modern kitchen and bathroom. Ideal 1st time buy or investment.

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MAIDSTONE £95,000

A two bedroom lower ground floor apartment situated in the town centre. There are two good size bedrooms, lounge, kitchen and bathroom. This property is offered with no forward chain.

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MAIDSTONE £99,000

A first floor one bedroom retirement apartment located in Maidstone town centre. There is a communal lounge, warden, communal gardens and parking. An internal viewing is recommended.

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MAIDSTONE £119,950

A unique two bedroom Grade II Listed home. The accommodation is arranged over three floors with a modern kitchen and bathroom but does require some work. Two loft rooms with staircases.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891



MAIDSTONE £130,000

A two bedroom first floor retirement apartment in Maidstone town centre. Benefits include double glazing, lifts to all floors, parking, communal gardens and no forward chain.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891



MAIDSTONE £135,000

An end of terraced one bedroom starter home with double glazing, re-fitted bathroom and parking. This stamp duty exempt property also has no forward chain.

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MAIDSTONE £139,950

A three bedroom terraced family home with off road parking, gas fired central heating and double glazing. There is a 21' lounge/dining room and utility area. An internal viewing is essential.

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MAIDSTONE £145,000

Ideal for first time buyer or buy to let investors. Well presented two bed terrace home. It has a lounge/dining room, family bathroom. Other benefits include a 40' garden, gas central heating and d. glazing.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891



BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA £149,950

A modern two bedroom home with a double glazed conservatory, 15' lounge and 12' kitchen/diner with fitted hob and oven. Other saleable benefits include gas central heating, double glazing.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891



MAIDSTONE OIEO £150,000

A three bedroom semi detached home adjacent to Mote Park. This property benefits from two receptions, double glazed conservatory, gas central heating and double glazing.

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MAIDSTONE £159,950

A three bedroom semi-detached home with a re-fitted kitchen/dining room, double glazed conservatory and tandem garage. Other benefits include gas central heating and double glazing.

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MAIDSTONE £159,995

If you are looking for a good size accommodation this is the home for you! Terraced yet has side pedestrian access which leads to your rear garden. Ideal for a garage.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891



MAIDSTONE £162,950

A super two double bedroom home with a 17' living room and a separate dining room. It also benefits from gas central heating, d. glazing and a low maintenance garden with a decking and patio area.

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MAIDSTONE £169,995

A first floor two bedroom apartment. The property is serviced by a lift, on site concierge and is in a security conscious gated development. This home has a living room with doors to the balcony.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891



MAIDSTONE OIEO £185,000

A three bedroom mock Tudor semi with ensuite shower room. Other benefits include a large "L" shaped double glazed conservatory, downstairs cloakroom and modern kitchen and bathroom.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891



MAIDSTONE OIEO £185,000

An improved bay fronted three bed family home with a modern fitted kitchen and bathroom and a converted cellar used as a study/music room. Other saleable benefits include gas central heating, d. glazing.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891



ALLINGTON £215,000

An extended three bed semi detached with gas central heating and double glazing. The extension creates a large kitchen with a vaulted ceiling. There is also a dining room, living room and cloakroom.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891



MAIDSTONE £225,950

A three bed home with ensuite. It benefits from a living room and dining room which in turn opens onto a conservatory. Other saleable features include a cloakroom and landscaped rear garden.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891



MAIDSTONE £239,995

A detached four bedroom chalet bungalow. The master bedroom has an ensuite and there are three receptions, a study/music room. An internal viewing is recommended.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891



BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA £249,950

A modern detached three bedroom home with various upgrades to original specification including an enhanced kitchen with granite work surfaces, alarm system and floor coverings.

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 • Customer satisfaction survey, Dec 2007
 • Property portal visitor stats Jan 2008
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MAIDSTONE £229,950



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MAIDSTONE £134,950



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TESTON £179,995



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 • Three Beds - Ensuite • Kitchen • Lounge With Log Burning Stove

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 • Bungalow • Two Beds • Lounge • Conservatory As Dining Room

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BEARSTED £165,000



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 • Two Bedrooms • Extended Lounge/Dining Room • Fitted Kitchen

DOWNSWOOD £130,000



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MAIDSTONE £179,995



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 • Spacious Semi • 3 Bedrooms • Garage • Gardens

SUTTON VALENCE £399,995



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 • Executive Home • 4 Bedrooms • En-suite • Sitting Room

VINTERS PARK £185,000



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 • 3 Bedrooms • Sitting/Dining Room • Conservatory

MAIDSTONE £139,995



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 • 2 Bedrooms • Sitting/Dining Room • Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom

MAIDSTONE £175,000



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 • 3 Bedrooms • First Floor Bathroom/WC • 2 Receptions

DITTON £198,500



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 • Lounge/Dining Room • Kitchen • Cloakroom

DITTON £375,000



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 • PART EXCHANGE CONSIDERED • Three Bedrooms

EAST MALLING £360,000



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Detling £420,000

Four bedroom bungalow, kitchen and bathroom, central heating, double glazing

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Bearsted £350,000

Four bedrooms, refitted kitchen, double glazing, central heating, garden

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Maidstone £299,995

5 bedroom with swimming pool and studio annex. Double glazing, central heating

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Weaving £275,000

Extremely well presented three bedroom, double glazing, conservatory, study

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Maidstone OIEO £250,000

A modern style four bedroom house in a cul-de-sac with en-suite, garage

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Weaving £249,995

Well presented three bedroom semi, cloakroom, kitchen and en-suite, gardens

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Weaving £235,000

Three bedroom semi-detached, good sized rear garden, garage

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Maidstone £220,000

New three bedroom house with cloakroom, double glazing, central heating

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Weaving £219,995

Three bedroom semi, refitted cloakroom, kitchen and bathroom, double glazing

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Weaving £219,995

Three bedroom semi, refitted kitchen, bathroom and en-suite, double glazing

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Weaving Guide Price £215,000-£230,000

3/4 bedroom, three receptions, conservatory, bathroom, en-suite and cloakroom

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Maidstone £215,000

Very well presented three bedroom semi, double glazing, refitted bathroom

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Vinters Park £199,995

Two bed semi-detached bungalow. Lounge/dining room, enclosed rear garden

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Weaving £195,000

Three bedroom extended property, integral garage, two receptions, no chain

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Vinters Park £189,950

Three bedroom end of terrace with converted garage, downstairs cloakroom

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Maidstone £162,500

Two bedroom Victorian style terraced house with double glazing, central heating

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Maidstone £157,995

Two bedroom house. Two receptions. Modern kitchen and bathroom. Cellar. D/G. C/H

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Maidstone OIEO £139,995

Two bedrooms, lounge/diner, central heating, double glazing, allocated parking

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Maidstone £99,950

One bedroom house with lounge, open plan kitchen and upstairs bathroom. D/G

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Maidstone

We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £92,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place

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Offers in the region of £90,000

One bedroom ground floor flat, shops, bus stops and green space nearby, resident's parking, a must view.

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£114,995

Truly unique maisonette, lounge/diner, kitchen, inner hall, bathroom and bedroom plus roof window.

East Farleigh



£159,995

Views of orchards to the front and side, lounge, kitchen/diner overlooking the garden, refitted bathroom.

Maidstone



Offers in excess of £200,000

Well apportioned apartment. Views over Maidstone from balcony plus ensuite to master bedroom.

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£225,000

Two bedroom bungalow set in the Queens Road area, fitted kitchen, extended lounge and driveway.

Penenden Heath



£240,000

Three bedroom, two shower rooms, fitted kitchen, dining room extension, viewing highly recommended.

Sandling



£250,000

Four bedroom home, no chain, ideal for both M20 and M2, lounge, dining room, conservatory and en suite.

Penenden Heath



Offers in excess of £250,000

Three bedroom semi detached 1930s family home, bathroom, lounge, dining room and conservatory.

Maidstone



Offers in excess of £275,000

Three bedroom, landscaped rear garden and double glazed conservatory are just some of the highlights.

Penenden Heath



£340,000

Four bedroom, substantially improved and extended, fitted kitchen, cloak, bathroom, en suite and two receptions.

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Maidstone

£184,995



- 3 Bedrooms
- Master Bedroom with ensuite
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Garage and parking

London Road

£174,995



- 2nd Floor 2 Bed Apartment
- Master Bedroom with Ensuite
- Allocated Parking
- Leasehold /share of freehold

Maidstone

£179,995



- Well presented modern semi detached house
- Off Road Parking for 2 Cars
- Cul De Sac Location

Bearsted

£220,000



- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Chalet Bungalow
- Double Garage to the Rear
- Off Road Parking for 2 cars

Maidstone

£142,995



- Top Floor 2 Dble Bed Apart.
- Balcony
- Ensuite to Master Bedroom
- Lift & Entry System

Tovil

£157,500



- 2 Bedroom Duplex Apartment
- Carport Parking for 1 Vehicle
- Cloakroom
- Large Bathroom

Maidstone

£199,950



- 3 bedroom End of Terrace Character Home
- Converted Cellar Room
- Downstairs shower room & WC

Maidstone

£284,995



- 4 Bed Detached Family Home
- Sought After Location
- Two Reception Rooms
- Master With Ensuite

Maidstone

£139,950 OIEO



- 2 Bedroom Terraced Property
- Cellar
- Close Proximity to Station
- Ideal First Time Buy

Maidstone

£84,950



- 2 Bedroom Mid Terrace
- Off Road Parking To The Front
- Gas Central Heating
- Upstairs Bathroom

Maidstone

£124,995



- Refurbished One Bed House
- Newly Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- Cellar

Maidstone

£249,995



- Extended 3/4 Bed Family House
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Otham | Price Range: £385,000-£425,000

- Stunning Extended 3 Bed In Semi Rural Location
- 3 En Suites, Refurbished 17'4 Kitchen/Diner
- Conservatory, Parking, Landscaped Garden

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Kings Hill | Price Range: £380,000-£420,000

- Extended Four Bedroom Detached
- Lounge, Dining Room, Family Room/Conservatory
- Kitchen, Family Bathroom plus En-Suite

KING'S HILL OFFICE | 01732 222211



Maidstone | Price Range £330,000-£370,000

- Superior 4 Bedroom Detached Family Residence
- Premiere Location, Lounge, Dining Rm, Conservatory
- En suite To Master, Detached Double Garage

MAIDSTONE OFFICE | 01622 683737



Halling | Price Range: £315,000-£335,000

- Extremely Spacious 5 Bedroom Detached House
- Superb Location, 2 Ensuites, 2 Reception Rooms
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Conservatory, Gardens

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Maidstone | OIEO: £270,000

- Stunning 3/4 Bedroom Period Semi
- Kitchen, Utility, Bathroom & Shower Rm
- 100' Rear Garden. MUST BE VIEWED!

MAIDSTONE OFFICE | 01622 683737



Grove Green | OIRO: £234,995

- Well Presented 3 Bedroom Residence
- 3 Reception Rooms, Cloakroom
- Ensuite Shower Room, Enclosed Garden

BEARSTED OFFICE | 01622 730955



Larkfield | Price: £148,950

- 3 Bed Home With No Forward Chain
- 2 Receptions, 13'1 x 9'4 Kitchen
- D Glazing, Southerly Facing Rear Garden

LARKFIELD OFFICE | 01732 847877



Coxheath | Price Range £135,000-£150,000

- Ideal 1st Time Buy, 2 Bed End of Terrace
- Lounge/Dining Rm, Refitted Kitchen
- 1st Floor Bathroom, Rear Garden

LOOSE OFFICE | 01622 744067



Eccles | Offers in the Region of: £100,000

- 2 Bedroom Victorian Terrace Home
- In Need Of Improvement
- 2 Receptions, Off Road Parking

LARKFIELD OFFICE | 01732 847877



Bearsted: 01622 730955

Loose: 01622 744067

Kings Hill: 01732 222211

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Foley Street £525pcm



- 1 bed room flat on ground floor
- Popular location near town centre
- Kitchen with dining area & appliances
- Allocated parking space

Coral Park £535pcm



- GF apartment in new development
- Living room with arch to kitchen
- Washing machine, fridge freezer
- Parking for one car

Leybourne Park £575pcm



- 1 bedroom 2nd floor apartment
- Bathroom, Allocated parking
- Open plan living room with kitchen area

Leybourne Park £625pcm



- 2 bedroom 1st floor apartment
- Communal gardens, alloc parking
- Ensuite shower room
- Modern kitchen with appliances

Tovil Mill £675pcm



- 2 bedroom apartment
- Attic bedroom & further 2nd bedroom
- Kitchen with appliances
- Living room

St Andrew Park £650pcm



- 2 bedroom apartment
- Master ensuite shower room
- Large living room with dining area
- Kitchen with appliances

Tarragon Road £675pcm



- 2 bedroom GF apartment
- Living room, kitchen
- Ensuite to master
- Allocated parking

Farrier Close £650pcm



- 2 bedroom end of terrace house
- Kitchen with appliances
- Enclosed rear garden
- Popular location, allocated parking

Orchard Heights £645pcm



- 2 bedroom apartment
- Near town on College Road
- Master ensuite, family bathroom
- Open plan living/dining room & kitchen

Postley Road £895pcm



- Four bedroom Victorian house
- Two reception rooms
- Refitted bathroom
- Rear gardens south facing

Kingfisher Meadow £750pcm



- 2 bedroom apartment, river views
- Master ensuite, fitted wardrobes
- Kitchen with appliances
- Double aspect balcony

Buckland Place £875pcm



- 3 bedroom town house
- New kitchen, cloakroom, bathroom
- 2 double bedrooms, rear garden
- Garage and off road parking

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Sociable girl, 28, loves pubs, social drinks, meeting new people & more, seeks similar male, 58-62, for a lasting relationship. Box 448756 1

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE
Loving loyal female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 6ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471 1

YOURS AND YOURS ONLY!
Attractive, down-to-earth British-Indian single mum, 29, WLTm white British male, 29-34, no ties, for long-term relationship. Box 883431 1

IN THE COUNTRY
Are you the one? I'm 33, single, 5ft2, pure country lass from farming background, seeking my lovely country man to make me forever happy. Box 882265 1 2

HAPPY DAYS!
Attractive, fun-loving female, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTm intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 1

SOUND GOOD?
Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595 1

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME...
Hello I'm Andrea, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair, enjoys eating out, the cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039 1

SEALED WITH A KISS
Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 1

STARRY NIGHTS
Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair enjoy swimming nights! not looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378 1

HISTORIC MEETING?
Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 35-40, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 1

GALLOP AHEAD!
Maidstone-based woman, 36, 5ft5, slim build, blue eyes, I'm caring, honest and have 4 children, enjoys drives and horse riding, and WLTm honest, reliable man. Box 453131 1

UNDERSTAND ME
Open, honest straight girl, 37, 5'6", slim, pale and cute, own home, searching for sensual, strong, younger man, to help me relax and enjoy life. Box 451524 1

WISHFULLY YOURS
Loving female, 37, 5ft2, brown hair, slim build, looking for honest, caring male with GSOH, for friendship, leading to more. Ashford. Box 44915 1

CALL ME
Happy but shy girl of 37, loves all the normal things in life, seeks a mature guy, hoping for something lasting and meaningful. Bexhill-on-Sea. Box 452424 1

LOVE TO LOVE YOU

Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102 1

SEIZE THE DAY
Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 1

MEND A BROKEN HEART
Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053 1 2

BLONDE AMBITION
Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 39, 5ft6, likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614 1 2

BELLA ISABEL
Lovely, fun and caring brunette, 42, recently divorced, intelligent, hard working, fun-loving, WLTm a gent to socialise with. Box 878250 1 2

COSY TIMES TOGETHER
Fun-loving female, 42, looking for someone who can make me laugh and enjoys country walks, films, travelling and a nice evening cuddled up. Box 881545 1

PROFESSIONAL LADY
Fun bubbly sexy black female, 42, outgoing, positive, fun-loving, seeks charming male to have fun and enjoy life with. Box 451744 1

YOU NEVER KNOW
Kind, loving and caring mum, 43, 5ft5, round but cuddly! Just looking for someone to share my life with...how about you? St. Leonards-on-Sea. Box 446457 1

LET'S CLICK
WLTm a nice guy with a similar nature; I'm an outgoing woman, 42, with brown hair and green eyes. Tell me about you? Box 446847 1

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY
Bubbly female, 44, brunette, n/s, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955 1

LOOKING FOR LTR
Single mum, petite, 44, brown hair/eyes, looking to share my life with a nice man, a Russian man would be great! I like cinema, pubs, music. Box 451373 1

ALONG THE SHORE
Recently divorced woman, 43, 5ft3, slim, hard-working, fun-loving, likes life, looking for a really nice and trustworthy guy for a relationship. Hastings. Box 451469 1

A SOUL MATE
Black Christian girl, 39, likes country music, loving, considerate, kind and caring, looking for a like-minded man & more. Box 152862 1

ENTHUSIASM ENCOURAGED!
Lovely pretty big-busted lady, 39, medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy! likes the gym, reading, new experiences! seeking a nice man for potential exciting relationship! Box 446724 1

THE WIT TO WOO!
Kent female, 40, 5'7", dark eyes, GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 152862 1

JOINED AT THE HIP
Sociable petite girl with great SOH, 40, blonde, sociable, love football! Looking for fun guy with great SOH for inseparable partnership. Box 880434 1 2

YOUNG-AT-HEART
Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893 1 2

FREE AD placement, call: 0808 156 5339
(Calls are free; mobile rates may vary; check with your provider)

COLLECT your messages: 0906 550 4335
(Calls cost £1/min; contact your service provider for details)

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTm a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 1 2

A HEART FULL OF LOVE

Nice looking, genuine 41yr old mixed race female, likes cinema, walks, eating out, bowling, WLTm a genuine good natured white male, GSOH, for fun filled friendship/relationship. Box 450890 1 2

A FAIRY TALE ENDING
Radiant, warm, witty, intelligent, attractive lady, 44, 5'6", love music, travel, restaurants, the arts, theatre, WLTm like-minded gent, 38-50 who's fun, cultured, solvent and kind. Box 430403 1 2

COULD IT BE YOU?
Hi I'm 44, slim, 5ft8, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 889800 2

YOUNG AT HEART
Young 46, fun-loving but also mature, serious female, looking for someone fit, handsome, intelligent and full of fun. Box 884113 1 2

FANCY A DRINK?
Hi, I'm June, 47, bubbly, loving, looking for a trustworthy guy for a relationship, I enjoy walks, car-boots, travelling and sharing a bottle of red. Box 878294 1

2'S COMPANY
Seeking gent, 48-50ish. I'm a divorced woman, in Ryde, 47, work in nursing, and WLTm someone loving and faithful, likes meals out, theatre, arts, walks. Box 452503 1

SOUND GOOD?
Hi I'm Lynne 46, 5ft4, dark hair/eyes, love reading/writing, going out, astrology, cars, seeking honest, caring, outgoing guy to enjoy music, fun, friendship and more! Box 449186 1

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?
Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366 1

HELP ME OPEN UP
Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, WLTm male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585 1

SAY YES!
Funny lady, 48, looking for tattooed hippy/biker/metal type to relieve the boredom, must enjoy cat cuddling and have own chocolate because I never share! Box 878407 1

LOOK THIS WAY!
Slim single mum, 48, 5ft5, light brown hair, works full time, friendly and easy-going, WLTm lots of new friends, hopefully someone special. Box 878456 1

STIMULATING COMPANY
Bubbly, caring, single mum, 46, WLTm nice male, for good conversations, company, and maybe more. Box 396829 1

HERE AND NOW
Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 449524 1

LOVELY BUBBLY
Short 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gosh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311 1

THIS STATE OF INDEPENDENCE

Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156 1

MISS THIS MISS OUT

Radiant, warm, witty, intelligent, attractive lady, 44, 5'6", love music, travel, restaurants, the arts, theatre, WLTm like-minded gent, 38-50 who's fun, cultured, solvent and kind. Box 430403 1 2

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REPLY to an ad, call: 0905 211 0651
(Calls cost £1.20/min; contact your service provider for details)

REPLY by Text

You can choose to text the member's 6-digit box number followed by a space, then your message (max of 160 characters) and send to 82250 e.g. 654321 Hi my name is... Standard network rates apply to send messages. Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message.

JUST IMAGINE

Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTm genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562 1

CARING & PROFESSIONAL

Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings. Box 171101 1

HIT THE JACKPOT

Good-looking female, 50, looking for a kind, reliable and honest man, must be a moderate drinker, for companionship and romance. Box 878216 1

SHARE LIFE

Caring woman of 52, normal, down-to-earth, open minded and loves to give, looking for an understanding and caring male to enjoy films, walks and more. Box 452463 1

YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL...
Young-looking, hard-working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410 1

COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, HOPFULLY MORE
Cuddly and outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, WLTm similar loving male. Box 443542 1

HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS!
Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863 1

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!
Smart petite lady 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795 1

DREAMS OF YOU
Genuine, caring lady, late 50s, slim & young looking, looking for a loyal, considerate, N/S male for long term relationship. Box 446566 1

SOMETHING NEW
Caring female with GSOH, 58, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, likes beach walks, theatre, holidays and music; WLTm male with GSOH, genuine, for friendship, maybe more. Eastbourne. Box 447662 1

BEING WITH YOU
Hi, I'm Jenny, 61yr old widow, enjoys pub meals, countryside, the beach, cinema, seeks loving male for friendship and more. Box 453104 1

ONLY LOVE
Classy, intelligent, happy, slim, attractive, fit and active lady, 60, gosh, enjoys travel, gardening etc, looking for that special friend to share life with. Box 883791 1

NEVER TOO LATE
Hello, I'm Betty, 62, cuddly widow, 5ft5, brown hair/brown eyes, gosh and love life, seeking a like-minded gent for companionship and more. Box 452329 1

LOVING AND GENUINE
Female, early 60s, tall, slim, modern, young thinking & very adaptable to socialise with, go out and have some fun, then see what happens. Ashford area. Box 880564 1

ATTRACTIVE, BUBBLY LADY
52yrs, 5ft6, blonde, size 12 enjoys good food/wine, theatre, countryside, holidays, seeking a sincere, genuine female, for friendship first, possibly relationship. Box 414143 1

HOMELY & FUN
Hello there, I'm looking for a kind, gentle partner, a homely woman, with GSOH. I'm female, 56, and enjoy cinema, reading, antiques, gardening, music. Eastbourne. Box 451409 1

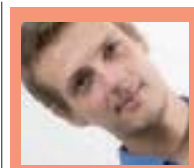
MEANT TO MEET...
Grounded lady of 73, looking for companionship with a similar gentleman who wants to share and enjoy all of life's pleasures. Box 453141 1

Women seeking women

FUN AND MAYBE MORE
Passionate female, 37, new to town, WLTm passionate, genuine companions to socialise with, go out and have some fun, then see what happens. Ashford area. Box 880564 1

ATTRACTIVE, BUBBLY LADY
52yrs, 5ft6, blonde, size 12 enjoys good food/wine, theatre, countryside, holidays, seeking a sincere, genuine female, for friendship first, possibly relationship. Box 414143 1

HOMELY & FUN
Hello there, I'm looking for a kind, gentle partner, a homely woman, with GSOH. I'm female, 56, and enjoy cinema, reading, antiques, gardening, music. Eastbourne. Box 451409 1



MEN seeking women

LIFE IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT
24yr old man, dark hair/eyes, 5ft9, honest, kind and caring, looking for someone for fun, friendship, hopefully a relationship. Box 878297 1

OPEN UP

Very shy male looking to find love, 32, intelligent, likes music and clubbing, looking to meet female who's genuine. Box 453137 1

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME

Paul, 33, 5ft7, dark hair, blue eyes. I'm an honest, reliable and trustworthy guy, likes most sports and I'm looking for a soulmate. Box 453042 1

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT
Seeking honest woman, who I can be myself with. I'm a genuine male, 34, GSOH, and enjoys sports, sky diving, drinks out, swimming. Box 878986 1 2

FULL OF LIFE
Friendly Mike, 34, 6ft9, big build, clean shaven, gosh, likes music, swimming, walks, looking for a lovely bubbly lady 38-45, for a friendship. Box 452817 1

DOWN-TO-EARTH
Attractive single dad, 36, 5ft7, medium build, gosh, likes swimming, eating out and socialising, seeking a like-minded woman for a LTR. Box 453064 1 2

LOOKING FOR YOU!
Tall, dark and handsome! I'm a 35yr old guy, 5ft11 and enjoy most things in life, drinks out, quiet nights in etc. Box 452397 1

WORD FOR WORD
Honest, caring male, 35, 5ft11, short dark blond hair, blue eyes, med build, seeking loving, loyal, honest black female for fun, friendship and hopefully LTR. Box 444851 1

THE GOOD LIFE
Blonde male, 37, 5ft6, love golf, don't mind a beer! WLTm an open-minded female for good times, maybe a relationship. Box 450544 1

THE BUZZ
Happy easygoing man, 37, 6ft4, brown hair/green eyes, enjoys pubs, restaurants and gym, looking for a girl to take out and entertain. Tunbridge Wells. Box 452421 1

I'M YOUR MAN

Hi I'm Dave, 37, 6ft, likes staying in and going out, looking for a easygoing female for friendship leading to more. Box 453105 1

TO SHARE LIFE WITH
Passionate gardener, 38, 5ft9, medium-blue eyes, average-stocky build, curly mousey brown hair, likes tennis and music, being sociable! Seeking nice passionate genuine lady. Box 451992 1

HOP ON!
Hi, I'm Mark, 6ft, slim/medium build, lots of interests including motorcycles, WLTm a kind and honest female to share fun times and laughter with. Box 445124 1 2

PUT THAT SPARK BACK IN MY LIFE
Virgo male, 40, 5ft7, stocky build, kind, loving, fine guy, enjoys the cinema, meals out, walks on beaches, WLTm like-minded person to be my girl. Box 446211 1

FRIENDS FIRST
Caring, understanding chap, 40, 5ft7, blue eyes/bond hair, slim/average build, I'm easygoing and relaxed, and like like travel, music, film, restaurants, theatre, days out, badminton. Box 451361 1

TLC ON OFFER
Good-looking man, 40, 5ft7, medium build, dark hair/brown eyes, like travelling, sport and adventures, looking for a girl, same interests, 20-33, for friendship/romance. Hastings. Box 450613 1

I'LL MAKE YOU SMILE
Keith from Kent, 40, two children, like walking, swimming, cycling, very fun-loving, looking for a girl with similar interests. Box 453111 1

BROWSE and listen line: 0906 753 3093
(Calls cost 75p/min; contact your service provider for details)

HELP required with service? 0871 220 9205
(Calls cost 10p/min; contact your service provider for details)

NIGHT OUT? NIGHT IN?

Easygoing male, 40, likes most things in life, seeks slim white female 21-45 for company, friendship and more. Box 451889 1

A NEW LIFE

Quite (a little bit shy) widower, 41, loves cooking, looking for an older lady for a serious relationship. Box 452701 1

LOVE ON THE DANCEFLOOR

Outgoing, young-minded male, 47, smoker, likes war games, books, cinema, castles, places of interest, seeking similar woman to boogie on the dancefloor with. Box 443750 1

PUT THE SPICE BACK IN!

Family orientated guy, 41, separated, looking to find a lady who wants the fun and company of a partner back into their life. Box 884085 1 2

GOT A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOUR?

MOTORS NEWS



Ford dealers make most of Scrappage scheme

FORD'S car business is on the scrap heap, with UK dealers taking an amazing 300 orders daily under the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme.

Buyers get at least £2,000 back if they consign their 10 or more-year-old banger to the crusher in return for buying a new car.

Ford's big seller is the Fiesta, from £8,595 under the scheme with the Ka city car next (pictured right), from £6,595.

Ford says the scheme is also delivering 'conquests' to its dealers; only half of cars surrendered are Fords.



Nissan building on scrap deal to boost profits

NISSAN has picked up the Scrappage ball and run with it by offering a £2,000 minimum trade-in on 8-10-year-old cars as well as 10-year-old bangers targeted by the Government.

And this deal has been extended until September 30, 2009 for customers buying models built at Nissan's Sunderland plant – the Qashqai (pictured left), Note and Micra (right) – so it also benefits recession-hit 'UK PLC' directly.

Under either scheme, a new car can cost as little as £5,995, in the case of the Micra supermini.



Fiat lift lid off remake of classic 50s open top

FIAT has paid further homage to its original 1950s 500 Nuovo by launching a chic convertible version of the current and retro-styled 'Cinquecento'.

And the UK – a major market for open tops – is the world's first to get the new Fiat 500C, a recycling of the 1957 fabric roof Fiat 500.

While using the original's roll-top canvas roof format though, the newcomer is a thoroughly modern interpretation, but commands a £3,000 premium over its hatchback sister, with prices from £11,300 (1.2 Pop 500C).



SOUND KOREA MOVE: The new Hyundai i20 may not match the excellent Ford Fiesta but it is superb value for money and comes with the usual five-year warranty

Supermini highlights advances by Hyundai

ROAD TEST HYUNDAI i20

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

full complement of airbags, air con and glove box cooler, electric front windows plus fully adjustable wheel and driver's seat – all from £8,195.

Under the Government sponsored Scrappage scheme for owners of cars ten or more years old; qualifying i20 buyers can also save some £3,000 by trading in a banger.

But they may miss the 'wow' factor of buying a more modern motor for the i20's chassis balances comfort and sporty, yet falls short of the driver feedback of sophisticated rivals like the Fiesta.

And the interior is robust with nice touches, but even lively upholstery in our mid-range Comfort trim test car failed to lift a slightly dour atmosphere, though you do get a USB link for your MP3 player/iPod at this level.

Of the three engine options, discount the 75bhp 1.4-litre diesel tested here (from £10,145); the front wheels can scramble under initial acceleration in wet conditions, yet it runs out of puff later and generally feels heavy and lumpy in such a small car.

It also adds £1,000 to the price of the equivalent 99bhp 1.4-litre petrol, while the even cheaper (by £500) 77bhp 1.2 petrol is peppy, economical and easily the best drive.



SEE MOTORSTV FOR MORE ROAD TESTS BY STEVE LOADER @ yourkenttv.co.uk

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09 58 NEW CORSA 1-4 DESIGN AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR BLACK 2000 MILES.....£10995	08 58 MEGANE 1-6 EXPRESSION ESTATE AUTO PAS BLACK 600 MILES.....£9995
08 58 CHEVROLET LACETTI EST 1-8 SX SW AUTO PAS 5 DR BLACK 4000M.....£7495	08 58 CHEVROLET LACETTI EST 1-8 SX SW AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 4000M.....£7495
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08 58 PEUGEOT 107 2-TRONIC 3DR AUTO PAS RED 1400 MILES.....£7995	08 58 PEUGEOT 107 2-TRONIC 3DR AUTO PAS RED 2000 MILES.....£7995
08 58 ASTRA 1-8 SRI SPORT COUPE AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 1600 MILES.....£12995	08 58 ASTRA 1-8 ELITE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DOOR STAR SILVER 600 MILES.....£12995
08 58 NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR ICE BLUE 4000 MILES.....£8995	08 58 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DOOR BLACK 4000 MILES.....£8995
08 58 NEW A CLASS 150 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS 5DR BLUE 400 MILES.....£12995	08 58 NEW MODEL MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 500 MILES.....£9995
08 58 KANGOO 1-6 AUTHENTIQUE AUTO PAS INTENSE BLUE 400 MILES.....£8995	08 58 CHEVROLET AVEO LT AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER GREY 4000 MILES.....£7995
08 58 CHEVROLET AVEO LT AUTO PAS AIR/C TURQUOISE 1900 MILES.....£7995	08 58 SUZUKI SX4 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS GREY 7000 MILES.....£8995
08 58 NISSAN NOTE TEKNA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR CAFFEE 6000 MILES.....£10995	08 58 NISSAN NOTE ASENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 1800 MILES.....£9995
08 58 NISSAN NOTE ASENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 3000 MILES.....£9995	08 58 RENAULT CLIO 1-6 EXPRESSION 3DR AUTO PAS 750 MILES.....£8995
08 58 VAUXHALL AGILA 1-2 DESIGN 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 4000M.....£9495	08 58 TOYOTA AURIS TR AUTO PAS AIR/C DIESEL 5 DR GREY 4000 MILES.....£11995
08 58 TOYOTA YARIS T3 AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DR CARLO BLUE 6000 MILES.....£9995	08 08 NEW ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C TURQUOISE 4000 MILES.....£8995
08 08 MICRA ACCENTA PLUS 5 DOOR AUTO PAS BLUE PAS AIR/C 2000 MILES.....£8995	08 08 MICRA ACCENTA PLUS 5 DOOR AUTO BLACK PAS AIR/C 1900 MILES.....£8995
08 08 FOCUS 1-6 TITANIUM AUTO PAS 5 DR ESTATE SILVER 4000MILES.....£12995	08 08 ASTRA 1-8 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DOOR STAR BLACK 6000 MILES.....£8495
08 08 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DOOR PANNACCTA 2000 MILES.....£8495	08 08 HONDA JAZZ 1-4 SE AUTO PAS AIR/C MET GREY 1800 MILES.....£10995
08 57 RENAULT MEGANE 1-6 EXPRESSION 4DR AUTO GREY 9000 MILES.....£7495	

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08 58 PEUGEOT 207 SPORT CC 1-6 AUTO ALL BLACK LEATHER2000MILES.....£15995	08 58 MICRA 1-6 CONVERTIBLE CC ACENTA AUTO PAS LATTE 2000 MILES.....£11995
08 58 MICRA 1-6 CONVERTIBLE CC ACENTA AUTO PAS LATTE 4000 MILES.....£11995	08 08 PEUGEOT 207 SPORT CC 1-6 AUTO CABRIOLET SILVER 2000MILES.....£12495
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06 56 HYUNDAI 2-0 COUPE SE 3DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 7000 MILES.....£8995	06 56 MICRA CONVERTIBLE SPORT AUTO AIR/C BLADE SILVER 16000MILES.....£9995
06 06 MICRA CONVERTIBLE ESSENZA AUTO AIR/C BLACK 11000MILES.....£8995	05 55 MEGANE DYNAMIC1-6 CONVERTIBLE AUTO GOLD 13000 MILES.....£8495
05 55 MERCEDES 200 CLK COMPRESSOR AUTO SILVER 15000 MILES.....£15995	

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07 57 FUSION ZETEC 1-6 PLUS AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SEA GREY 5000 MILES.....£8995	07 07 FUSION ZETEC 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR GREEN 4000 MILES.....£8495
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06 06 FUSION 14 CLIMATE AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5 DR AMETHYST 15000MILES.....£6995	06 06 FIESTA STYLE 1-6 CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR/C BLUE ONLY 50 MILES.....£7995

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07 57 FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS AIR/C AQUARIUS BLUE 6000 MILES.....£8995	07 57 FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS AIR/C MOONDOUST SILVER 7000 MILES.....£8995
07 57 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/CALLOYS BLACK 10000 MILES.....£8995	07 57 FOCUS 16 ZETEC 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS SEA GREY 13000 MILES.....£8995
07 07 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA 5 DR AUTO PAS SEA GREY AIR 17000 MILES.....£9995	06 56 FORD FOCUS GHIA AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C TANGO RED 9000 MILES.....£7995
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06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C STEEL GREY 12000 MILES.....£7995	06 06 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR PANTHER BLACK 11000 MILES.....£6995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS TONIC BLUE 21000 MILES.....£6995	06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS TONIC BLACK 18000 MILES.....£6995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS SILVER 21000 MILES.....£7495	06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS SILVER18000MILS.....£7495
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS TONIC11000MILS.....£7495	

CORSA

07 57 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C STAR SILVER 7000 MILES.....£8995	07 57 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C STAR SILVER 4000 MILES.....£8995
07 57 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C STAR SILVER 2000 MILES.....£8995	07 07 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR SILVER 19000 MILES.....£7995
07 07 NEW CORSA 1-4 SX AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR BLUE 2000MILES.....£8995	07 56 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 9000 MILES.....£7995
06 06 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 23000 MILES.....£5995	06 06 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 11000 MILES.....£6495
06 06 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS ULTRA BLUE 8000MILES.....£6495	06 06 CORSA 1-0 LIFE AUTO PAS 3DR STAR SILVER 11000 MILES.....£4995
06 06 CORSA 1-0 LIFE AUTO PAS 5DR STAR SILVER 9000 MILES.....£5995	06 06 CORSA 1-0 LIFE ECO AUTO PAS 5DR STAR SILVER 24000 MILES.....£5495
05 05 CORSA 1-0 LIFE AUTO PAS 5DR STAR SILVER 21000 MILES.....£4995	

KIA

08 08 KIA RIO 1-4 ICE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 4000 MILES.....£7495	08 08 KIA RIO 1-4 GS 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 8000 MILES.....£7995
06 06 KIA PICANTO 1-1 LX 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 3000 MILES.....£5995	

CITROENS

06 56 CITROEN PICASSO 2-0 EXCLUSIVE AUTO SILVER 5000 MILES.....£7995	06 56 CITROEN C3 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLUE 8000 MILES.....£7495
06 06 CITROEN PICASSO EXCLUSIVE AUTO DIABLO RED 19000 MILES.....£7495	06 06 CITROEN PICASSO EXCLUSIVE AUTO NIGHT BLUE 17000 MILES.....£7495

MAZDA

08 08 MAZDA 3 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C BLUE MET 10000 MILES.....£10995	07 57 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR SILVER GREY 10000 MILES.....£9995
07 57 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR SILVER BLUE 17000 MILES.....£9995	

SUZUKI

06 55 SUZUKI IGNIS 1-5 GL 5 DR AUTO PAS MET BLUE 17000 MILES.....£5995	06 06 SUZUKI LIANA 1-6 GLX AUTO PAS 5 DR RED 13000 MILES.....£5995
06 55 SUZUKI IGNIS 1-5 GL 5 DR AUTO PAS SILKY SILVER 26000 MILES.....£5495	01 Y SUZUKI WAGON R 1-3 GL AUTO PAS SILVER 56000 MILES.....£2995

HONDA

07 57 HONDA CIVIC 1-4 SE AUTO PAS AIR/C CHAMPAGNE 7000 MILES.....£10995	07 07 HONDA JAZZ 1-4 SE AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 1000 MILES.....£9995
06 56 HONDA CRV SE SPORT 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 17000 MILES.....£12995	06 06 HONDA CRV EXEC 5DR AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR BLACK 6000 MILES.....£13495
06 06 HONDA CRV EXEC 5DR AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR SILVER 15000 MILES.....£12995	06 06 HONDA CRV EXEC 5DR AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR SILVER 22000 MILES.....£12495
06 06 HONDA CRV SE SPORT 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 17000 MILES.....£12995	06 06 HONDA CRV SE SPORT 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 14000 MILES.....£11995
06 06 HONDA JAZZ 1-4 SE AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS BLACK 16000 MILES.....£8495	06 55 HONDA JAZZ 1-4 SE SPORT AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SILVER16000MILES.....£8495

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07 07 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS MET GREY 5000 MILES.....£5995	06 06 HYUNDAI MATRIX 18 CDX PAS AIR AUTO SHIMMERBLUE15000MILES.....£6995
06 06 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS MET GREY 5000 MILES.....£5495	06 06 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 21000 MILES.....£4995

TOYOTA

08 08 TOYOTA YARIS T3 AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DR BLACK 8000 MILES.....£9495	07 57 AYGO 1-0 PLUS 3DR AUTO PAS SILVER 2000 MILES.....£7495
06 56 AVENSIS T3-X 1-8 AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5DR CARLO BLUE 9000 MILES.....£9995	06 56 AVENSIS T3-X 1-8 AUTO PAS ALLOYS 45DR SILVER 14000 MILES.....£9995
06 06 COROLLA 1-6 T3 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C CARLO BLUE 18000 MILES.....£8995	06 06 COROLLA 1-6 T3 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C IXION BLUE 16000 MILES.....£8995
06 06 YARIS 1-3 T3 SPIRIT VERSO AUTO PAS AIR/CON SILVER 11000 MILES.....£7995	05 55 YARIS 1-3 T3 SPIRIT 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS BLACK 18000 MILES.....£7995
05 55 YARIS 1-3 T3 SPIRIT 3 DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SILVER 3000 MILES.....£7695	05 55 YARIS 1-3 T3 SPIRIT 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SILVER 9000 MILES.....£7995
05 54 YARIS 1-3 T3 SPIRIT 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SILVER 3000 MILES.....£7995	04 54 YARIS 1-0 T3 5 DR AUTO PAS CARLO BLUE 9000 MILES.....£4995
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08 08 NISSAN NOTE ASENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS INFERNO RED 850 MILES.....£9995	08 57 NISSAN MICRA ACCENTA 1-2 AUTO PAS INFERNO RED 17000 MILES.....£7995
07 57 NISSAN NOTE ASENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS CAFFE LATTE 4000 MILES.....£8995	07 57 NISSAN NOTE TEKNA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR BLUE 6000 MILES.....£9495
07 07 NISSAN MICRA 1-4 SPIRITA AUTO PAS RED MET JUST 1000 MILES.....£7495	06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 22000 MILES.....£6495
06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-4 SVE 3 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C RED 13000 MILES.....£6495	06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-4 SVE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 24000 MILES.....£6995
06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 6000 MILES.....£6995	06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C RED 21000 MILES.....£6495
06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 SE 3 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C GREEN 17000 MILES.....£6495	06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 S 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 11000 MILES.....£6495
03 03 NISSAN MICRA 1-0 S AUTO PAS 3DR RED 14000 MILES.....£3995	01 Y NISSAN MICRA 1-0 SE 3 DR AUTO PAS SILVER BLUE 11000 MILES.....£3495

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03 03 ROVER 45 IMPRESSION AUTO PAS AIR/C NIGHTFIRE RED 43000 MILES.....£3495	
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08 57 CHEVROLET MATIZ 8-0 SE AUTO PAS BLUE 5DR 13000 MILES.....£5695	07 07 CHEVROLET TACUMA 2-0 CDX AUTO PAS AIR MET BLUE 4000 MILES.....£4995
06 56 CHEVROLET MATIZ 8-0 SE AUTO PAS SILVER 2000 MILES.....£5295	06 06 CHEVROLET MATIZ 8-0 SE AUTO PAS BLUE 8000 MILES.....£4595
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08 08 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ESTATE STAR SILVER 8000 MILES.....£9995	08 57 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR ULTRA BLUE 13000 MILES.....£8495
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06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR STAR SILVER 8000 MILES.....£6995	06 56 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN 5DR AUTO SILVER LEATHER ALLOYS 24000 MILES.....£6995
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS ESTATE SILVER 18000 MILES.....£6995	06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR ULTRA BLUE 12000 MILES.....£6495
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 CLUB AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR SILVER 13000 MILES.....£6695	06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C ULTRA BLUE 11000 MILES.....£6495
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C ULTRA BLUE 5000 MILES.....£6495	06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C PANNACOTTA 17000 MILES.....£6495
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ALFA GT



THERE is the sense that Alfa Romeo's dark days of rusting and reliability problems are gone, yet doubts remain in the minds of some used car buyers – good news for anyone prepared to take a calculated risk on the sporty yet practical GT. Slinky styling disguises what is actually a spacious 2+2 with a decent hatchback, plus a range of engines from sensible to mad, including some tweaked versions of smooth and refined diesels courtesy of Alfa's Fiat parent.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

CITROËN C4



CITROËN really needed to pull off something special when it launched its current family hatch. So the C4 is a far better car than the dull Xsara it replaced and the three-door 'coupé' has one of the most individual looks on the road. Rakish and racy lines are abruptly curtailed by a chopped and glassy rear end. Balancing such curvaceous yet brutal styling, the C4 offers affordable sportiness, handling and riding well without the irritating quirkiness of old-style Citroëns.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

HYUNDAI COUPÉ



ONCE Hyundai sorted out the glitches of early generations, the brand's 'budget four-seat coupé' proposition was bound to take off. The latest version is beefier and smarter and confirms what great value the Korean sportster is. The chassis cannot rival key competitors, but delivers lots of fun for a modest outlay. For 0-60mph in 8.2 seconds, there is also the 2.7 V6 version and you are sure to find many Coupés with some of Hyundai's generous five-year warranty still intact.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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(55) ZAFIRA 1.6 LIFE
14,000mils, Pas, Air con, e/w, e/m, CD, ABS, 7 SEATS



(2005) VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 DESIGN
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(04) RENAULT CLIO 182 SPORT 2.0
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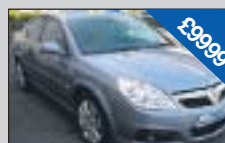
(06) FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC CLIMATE (115)
5dr, Tango, 10,000mils, Pas, Air Con, Alloys, H/Fr/Screen, e/w, e/m, LOW INSURANCE



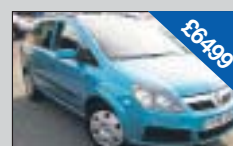
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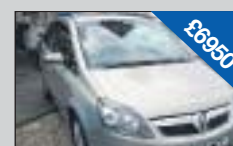
(06) FOCUS 1.6 GHIA
5dr, 13,000mils, Silver, Pas, Air Con, Alloys, H/Fr/Screen, 4 x e/w, e/m, EXCELLENT VALUE



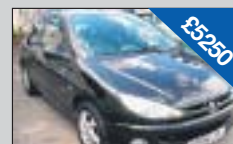
VECTRA 1.9 ELITE DIESEL AUTO
5dr, 20,000mils, 150bhp, TOP SPEC Inc Leather & Sat Nav, UNBELIEVABLE VALUE



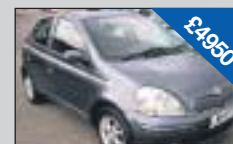
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20,000mils, Pas, Air Con, e/w, e/m, CD, A/bags, ABS, 7 SEATS



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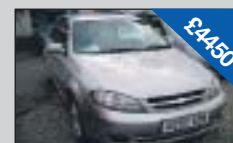
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Closing date: 20 July 2009

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The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone
is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

HR Adviser

Salary - £29,559-£36,630

MidKent College has been providing 'top quality' education and training in Kent for almost 100 years. As one of Kent's largest further and higher education Colleges it is important that we also provide 'top quality' support for our managers and staff in this innovative and exciting environment.

We are expanding our HR team to include professional, CIPD qualified HR Advisers, who will strengthen our provision of advice and guidance for managers and staff. We are looking to appoint experienced professionals who can support organisational change processes and have good knowledge of employment law, combined with strong generalist experience and knowledge in key areas of HR delivery. This will include employee relations, performance management, recruitment, workforce planning and organisational development.

Our strong customer service focus requires excellent interpersonal skills and an ability to engage with people at all levels of the organisation, working to drive, develop and implement new HR policies and initiatives that support the delivery of 'top quality' education and training.

For an application pack please contact Caroline Stark on 01634 884511 or e mail caroline.stark@midkent.ac.uk

Closing date: Mid-day July 15th 2009

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For further information and an information pack, please contact Sandie Hornby our Chief Operations Officer on 01795 583440 or sandie.hornby@swalecarers.org.uk

Completed application forms to be received not later than 10am 10th July, interviews will be held 17th July at Swale Carers Centre.

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MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns
and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Programme Area Leader in Catering and Hospitality Ref: P0544

Salary: £30,204 - £33,935 per annum

We are looking to recruit an exceptional candidate to provide support to the Head of School on all Staffing, Student, Curriculum and Quality issues. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a significant level of competence in Teaching and Learning, have experience of the industry and have good negotiating/communication skills. The post holder will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Biology Ref: P0102

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 pro rata

18.5 hours per week

We are looking to recruit an exceptional candidate to teach on and participate in the development of a range of Biology courses on Access, A levels and BTEC. The successful candidate will hold a relevant degree in Biology and possess or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. We are looking for an individual with the passion to motivate our learners within their chosen field.

Lecturer in Sport Ref: P0102

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 per annum

The College is looking for a passionate and enthusiastic professional to join the Sports team to teach, assess and participate in the development of Sports programmes. The successful candidate will hold at least a level three qualification and have some teaching/training experience along side industrial expertise. They must hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Health Care Ref: P0650

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 pro rata

18.5 hours per week

We are looking for a passionate candidate to be involved in the delivery of a range of Health Care programmes. The successful candidate will have proven knowledge and experience within Healthcare environments and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Performing Arts Ref: P0651

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 per annum

We are looking for an experienced, creative and dynamic individual to work as a course tutor within the Performing Arts department. The successful candidate will be involved with the development of the department, driving forward new ideas and must be able to demonstrate innovative ways of working and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Departmental Administrator Ref: P0245

Salary: £12,795 - £16,059 per annum/pro rata

Full time – Medway Campus

Part Time – Maidstone Campus

We are looking to recruit an Administrator/Secretary with excellent administration and organisational skills, who is able to demonstrate knowledge of office procedures and ability to use MS office packages.

Closing date: Wednesday 8 July 2009

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Career Opportunities

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Lecturer Public Services 08/145

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Lecturer Public Services 09/36

37 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum

Lecturer Performing Arts -Drama and Musical Theatre 09/37

18.5 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Lecturer Chemistry 06/182

18.5 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Lecturer Plumbing and Gas Fitting 09/39

37 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum

Higher Education Supply Lecturers are required in the following areas:

Electrical/Electronic Engineering Building Surveying – AutoCAD S/HE

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Supply Lecturer Nail Technology S/NT

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Learning Support Independent Living and Leisure Skills 09/34

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Trainer Demonstrator Theatre Costume and Props Construction 09/40

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Business Development Administrative Assistant 07/49

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Supply NVQ Assessors required in the following areas:

Early Years

Play work

Nail Technology

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S/NVQ/EY
S/NVQ/PW
S/NVQ/NT

Supply Trainer Demonstrator Beauty Therapy S/TD/BT

Various hours available, salary starting at £18,963 pro rata per annum

Supply Recreation Assistants S/RA

Various hours available, salary starting at £15,085 pro rata per annum

Night Cleaners 08/22

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For an application pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282, quoting the post reference.

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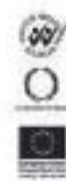
Closing date for above posts is Monday 20th July 2009 @ 12 noon

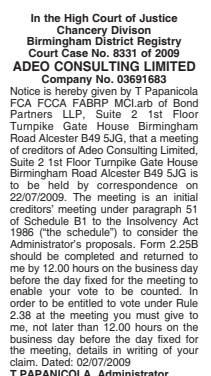
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CRICKET

BY TOM HOWARD

Kent League Premier Division 2nd XI

Bickley Park 2nd XI v The Mote 2nd XI

THE Mote remain in third spot in the 2nd XI Premier Division after a losing draw against leaders Bickley Park.

The game was a high-scoring encounter, which produced two centuries from either side.

Bickley Park raced to an impressive total of 347, which was largely helped by Knut Wilmott's 125 and Peter Clinton's 91.

The Mote's reply started badly, losing their first four batsmen for just 17. It was left for the middle order to rescue the innings with Alan Barr (65) and Andrew Barr (102) saving The Mote from defeat.

The Mote's first-team lost ground in their pursuit for a promotion place after a four-wicket defeat at the hands of Hythe.

Hythe won the toss and put The Mote in to bat with the home side setting a total of 212. James Hodgson top scored for the Maidstone side with a knock of 70.

The match was closely fought and Hythe only surpassed The Mote's total with three overs left and four wickets in hand.

The result means The Mote have dropped to fourth place in the league, but are just seven points adrift of second-placed Sandwich Town. Glen Aukett's side will travel to Folkestone this Saturday.

Barr's unbeaten ton

in vain as Mote suffer



DEFEAT: The Mote's bowlers were unable to tame Hythe's batsmen as they dropped to fourth in Division One after losing by four wickets

SCOREBOARD

Bickley Park

	Runs
Simon Melaniphy	ct Barr b Usher 37
Knut Wilmott	ct Rowe b Barr 125
Gordon Darroch	ct Bowles b Bell 26
Peter Clinton	ct Rowe b Rowe 91
Martin Maunders	st Coles b Barr 27
Michael Ridley	not out 1
Glynn Francis	not out 3
Alex Lorimer	did not bat 0
Chris Lycett	did not bat 0
Matthew Johnson	did not bat 0
Neil Clinton	did not bat 0
Extras (20b 7lb 9w 1nb)	..... 37
Total (5 wickets dec, 49 overs)	..... 347

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Richard Coles	3	0	27	0
Danny Rowe	9	0	69	1
Richard Usher	7	0	48	1
Christopher Bell	15	1	78	1
John-Jacob Britz	6	0	46	0
Andrew Barr	9	0	51	2

The Mote

	Runs
Peter Bowles	ct Francis b Lycett 8
Kraig Corke	b Lorimer 0
Howard Waters	ct Francis b Lorimer 9
Richard Coles	ct Maunders b Lorimer 0
Alan Barr	ct Clinton b Maunders 65
Andrew Barr	not out 102
Christopher Bell	ct Lycett b Maunders 10
Danny Rowe	not out 0
Richard Usher	did not bat 0
Chris Coles	did not bat 0
John-Jacob Britz	did not bat 0
Extras (13b 19w 2nb)	..... 34
Total (6 wickets, 51 overs)	..... 228

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Alex Lorimer	14	1	64	3
Chris Lycett	13	0	61	1
Neil Clinton	8	6	5	0
Matthew Johnson	5	1	20	0
Michael Ridley	5	0	29	0
Knut Wilmott	1	0	9	0
Martin Maunders	4	0	19	2
Simon Melaniphy	1	0	6	0

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

Addington Village 1st XI v Bromley Town 1st XI

ADDINGTON Village put in a superb display with the ball to run out winners by 35 runs.

The home side scraped together a score of 175 for 9 with Duncan Brown top scoring with 74, but the rest of the Addington batsmen struggled against the Bromley attack.

Alex Taylor notched 51 at the top of the Bromley innings but the rest of his team-mates struggled as Addington shared the wickets about. Brown was the pick with 3 for 16 as Bromley were bowled out for 140.

Addington Village

	Runs
Mark Rimmer	lbw b Goodyear 22
Ben Buet	lbw b Porter 10
Will Jeffery	ct Smart b Porter 5
Neil Scott	b Twose 6
Mat Bruton	run out 22
Duncan Brown	ct Porter b Taylor 74
Neil Miller	b Taylor 6
Matthew Seager	run out 1
Adam Crowley	st Slamon b Taylor 12
Steve Merralls	not out 11
Dan Walton	did not bat 0
Extras (2b 3lb 1nb)	..... 6
Total (9 wickets, 50 overs)	..... 175

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
William Goodyear	15	1	74	1
Ian Porter	15	6	20	2
Matt Twose	10	3	34	1
Alex Taylor	10	0	42	3

Bromley Town

	Runs
Alex Taylor	b Buet 51
Ian Ferrier	b Crowley 1
Tom Goodyear	lbw b Walton 1
Angus Smart	b Bruton 14
William Goodyear	run out 28
Thomas Smith	b Brown 26
Matt Twose	b Scott 0
Joe Smart	st Jeffery b Scott 2
Jamie McDowall	b Brown 0
Paul Slamon	ct Scott b Brown 0
Ian Porter	not out 0
Extras (10b 7lb)	..... 17
Total (all out, 42.2 overs)	..... 140

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Adam Crowley	8	4	12	1
Dan Walton	7	1	19	1
Mat Bruton	8	5	14	1
Neil Scott	72	2	33	2
Ben Buet	7	2	29	1
Duncan Brown	7	1	16	3

KENT FEEDER LEAGUE EAST 1A

Yalding 1st XI v Pembury 1st XI

FIVE ducks for Yalding's batsmen tells its own story in this game as Pembury won by 93 runs.

The visitors were all out in the final over for 181 with Muhammad Rafiq claiming tidy figures of 5 for 46, but it was with the bat that the home side struggled.

Graham Hutchings, Satwinder Aujla, Shumshair Haider, Davinda Aujla and Daniel Nixey were all dismissed without scoring as Yalding were blown away for a paltry 88 inside 27 overs.

Pembury

	Runs
Robert Eaton	ct Haider b Shepherd 18
Gary Purdy	ct Walker b Haider 1
Alan Moxon	ct Rafiq b Aujla 25
Andrew Dawes	b Shepherd 2
Neil Hemstalk	ct Aujla b Rafiq 38
Matthew Rice-Tucker	ct Walker b Rafiq 37
Richard Bidder	b Rafiq 8
Luke Hattle	ct Haider b Heer 3
Mark Parsons	not out 12
Dinesh Patel	c & b Rafiq 13
James Moyshey	ct Heer b Rafiq 2
Extras (5b 2lb 10w 5nb)	..... 22
Total (all out, 45.2 overs)	..... 181

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Jumshad Haider	11	3	23	1
Anthony Shepherd	12	2	45	2
Davinder Aujla	7	0	42	1
Muhammad Rafiq	10.2	1	46	5
Parinder Heer	5	0	18	1

Yalding

	Runs
Graham Hutchins	ct Rice-Tucker b Hemstalk 0
Satwinder Aujla	ct Hemstalk b Moyshey 0
Scott Walker	ct Patel b Patel 25
Shumshair Haider	ct Moxon b Hemstalk 0
Muhammad Rafiq	ct Hemstalk b Patel 35
Davinder Aujla	run out 0
Anthony Shepherd	ct Purdy b Parsons 6
Jumshad Haider	ct Eaton b Hemstalk 5
Lee Frimston	lbw b Hemstalk 7
Daniel Nixey	lbw b Hemstalk 0
Parinder Heer	not out 0
Extras (5b 5lb)	..... 10
Total (all out, 26.3 overs)	..... 88

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Neil Hemstalk	8	0	20	5
James Moyshey	6	2	15	1
Dinesh Patel	5	0	16	2
Richard Bidder	5	0	23	0
Mark Parsons	1.3	0	4	1

KENT FEEDER LEAGUE WEST 1B

Highways 1st XI v Dartford 3rd XI

A SENSATIONAL display of 8 for 15 from Sajid Khan helped Highways on their way to a crushing 73-run victory.

Steve Sandhu hit 81 in Highways' respectable total of 206 for 9 with valuable contributions from Amit Dave (39) and Shakeeb Ahmed (22). Rishan Gamage was on fire with the ball for Dartford 3s, claiming excellent figures of 7 for 27.

In reply, the visitors struggled against Khan who took eight wickets as Dartford were bowled out for 133 with more than three overs to spare.

Highways

	Runs
Hemang Moddy	ct Fitzgerald b Gamage 1
I Pal	ct Ranasinghe b Carter 25
Zafraz Raja	b Gamage 2
Steve Sandhu	ct Ali b Crane 81
Amit Dave	ct Carter b Gamage 39
Shakeeb Ahmed	ct Crane b Gamage 22
Shazad Aman	b Gamage 12
Zameer Shah	ct Carter b Gamage 9
Harj Mander	not out 4
Lee Thompson	ct Farmer b Gamage 0
Sajid Khan	did not bat 0
Extras (5b 1lb 1w 4nb)	..... 11
Total (9 wickets, 46 overs)	..... 206

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Viraj Bist	12	3	59	0
Rishan Gamage	10	3	27	7
Ryan Carter	4	0	26	1
Ben Sutton	5	1	21	0
Lee Crane	9	2	37	1
Amir Ali	6	1	30	0

Dartford

	Runs
Russell Cartwright	ct Raja b Thompson 0
Alexander Farmer	ct Mander b Aman 18
Ashley Ranasinghe	ct Raja b Khan 45
Amir Ali	b Khan 41
Steve Hirst	b Khan 0
James Fitzgerald	ct Moddy b Khan 3
Viraj Bist	b Sajid Khan 5
Lee Crane	ct Raja b Khan 5
Ryan Carter	ct Moddy b Khan 0
Ben Sutton	lbw b Khan 1
Rishan Gamage	not out 9
Extras (2lb 2w 2nb)	..... 6
Total (all out, 42.1 overs)	..... 133

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Lee Thompson	8	3	29	1
Shazad Aman	7	1	24	1
Zameer Shah	6	2	21	0
Amit Dave	0	43	0	0
Sajid Khan	10.1	4	15	8

INVICTA LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

West Farleigh 1st XI v Willesborough 1st XI

A HALF century from John Webster helped Willesborough to a 64-run victory against West Farleigh on Saturday.

The visitors lost opener Darren Stear for a duck but Webster's 56 stabilised the innings, along with 30 from Stuart Wilmer. Useful contributions from Robert Ades and John Scamp saw them reach 176 for 7.

The hosts were in trouble from the beginning with three ducks at the top of the order and three wickets apiece from Scamp and Callum Stuckey wrapped up a comfortable victory.

Willesborough

	Runs
Darren Stear	ct Fry b Barnardo 0
Graeme Marsh	ct Smith b Watkins 18
John Webster	b Watkins 56
Stuart Wilmer	ct Prideaux b Watkins 30
Callum Stuckey	c & b Watkins 5
Robert Ades	not out 21
John Scamp	run out 20
James Thomas	b Barnardo 13
Tim Luckhurst	did not bat 0
L Back	did not bat 0
A Robinson	did not bat 0
Extras (7 wickets, 45 overs)	..... 13
Total	..... 176

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Wein Barnardo	12	3	43	2
Senthil Muniyasamy	9	1	28	0
Les Watkins	12	3	39	4
Paul Baines	12	0	54	0

West Farleigh

	Runs
Paul Edwards	ct Webster b Stuckey 0
Colin Fry	b Scamp 0
Senthil Muniyasamy	b Stuckey 0
Richard Truelove	b Stuckey 12
B Norman	ct Marsh b Scamp 11
Wein barnardo	lbw b Luckhurst 11
Ian Prideaux	ct Wilmer b Scamp 5
Alan Smith	run out 21
Steve Smith	b Thomas 14
Paul Baines	not out 2
Les Watkins	ct Stear b Thomas 7
Extras (all out, 29.3 overs)	..... 29
Total	..... 112

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Callum Stuckey	6	0	26	3
John Scamp	7	2	30	3
Tim Luckhurst	9	2	20	1
John Webster	5	0	17	0
James Thomas	2.3	0	2	2

Shearreard takes steps to Walker Cup

Picture TOM HOWARD



HOPEFUL: Tom Sherreard is hoping a strong summer will reward him with a Walker Cup place

AMATEUR golfer Tom Sherreard is targeting a strong run of results this summer to boost his chances of being included in the final Great Britain Walker Cup squad.

The 21-year-old, from Maidstone, is eager to be included in one of the most prestigious amateur golf events in the world. The competition will see the best amateur golfers from Great Britain and America compete in a Ryder Cup style matchplay tournament.

The event is due to take place in America on September 12.

Sherreard put himself into the golf limelight with a stunning performance to finish tied 19th in The Open Championship at Royal Birkdale last year.

With the Chart Hills golfer included in the Great Britain provisional squad, he

GOLF

is aware a string of impressive results this summer could be enough to secure his place.

He told Yourmaidstone: "My golf has been pretty solid this season. I have not won any tournaments but I am fairly happy with how things are going. Obviously the Walker Cup is a massive competition and it is something I really want to be a part of"

Sherreard took part in final qualifying this week in a bid to earn a place in The Open Championship at Turnberry next week.

For a full report log on to www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

Stones to give Carter a first-team debut

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

MAIDSTONE United's latest England schoolboy recruit, Rob Carter, will be given a chance in the first-team next season, according to joint-manager Lloyd Hume.

The 18-year-old defender is the fourth Maidstone United player to receive a call-up to the England Schoolboys side, following in the footsteps of Chris Smalling, Sam Morrison and Ashley Ulph.

Carter is still awaiting his first-team debut for the Stones but after a successful England Schoolboys campaign where he featured heavily and scored a crucial goal against Scotland, Hume admitted he will be given a run out next season.

He told Yourmaidstone: "Rob will most certainly get a chance. It will be a big step up for him but we have done it before with Chris Smalling. It will be interesting to see how he deals with the physical side of the men's game. We know he has got the football ability to cope in this league."

With just weeks remaining before the start of the new season, Hume is continuing to build



FANTASTIC PLAYER: Stones boss Lloyd Hume has his eye on former Dover midfielder Alan Pouton

his squad and is hopeful of signing former Dover and Gillingham midfielder Alan Pouton.

The Ryman Premier League side held talks with the central midfielder last week. Pouton, who came out of retirement to sign for Andy Hessenthaler's Dover Athletic in 2007, played an integral part of the Whites' back-to-back promotions.

Hume was quick to move for Pouton, but is still awaiting a response from the former Gillingham player.

He said: "Alan is a fantastic player which was what initially attracted us to him. We offered him a deal and we are waiting for him

to get back to us. We have not missed out on him yet. I believe he is talking to other clubs and has not signed for anyone yet.

"With money tight we offered him a deal which wouldn't see him play in every game. We know he has had injury problems in the past. We have not heard back from him yet, but we are remaining hopeful. However, there are lots of players floating around at the moment, who are looking for clubs, so we are not going to rush into things."

This Saturday, Maidstone begin their pre-season campaign when they host League Two side Accrington Stanley at Homelands.

ATHLETICS



Picture: MEDWAY & MAIDSTONE AC

DEBUT: Lucy Hale came fifth in her first 3000 metres

League meeting a tough one for women athletes

INJURY and unavailability saw Medway and Maidstone's ladies find life tough in the second UK Women's Athletics League meeting on Saturday.

After a creditable fifth-place finish for the newly-promoted club in the opening round last month, they finished seventh out of eight at Bedford.

It left them one point above the relegation zone in Division Three ahead of the final meeting in Wigan next month.

Lucy Underdown was their only winner, throwing 43.57 metres to win the under-20 discus ahead of her sister Amy, who finished third.

In the absence of Natalie Gray, Lucy Hale made her debut in the 3000 metres, finishing fifth, while Natalie Whiskin took third in the 400m hurdles.

The men were also in action in Division Three of the British Athletics League at Bournemouth. They pipped Bedford to sixth place by a single point to boost their hopes of avoiding relegation.

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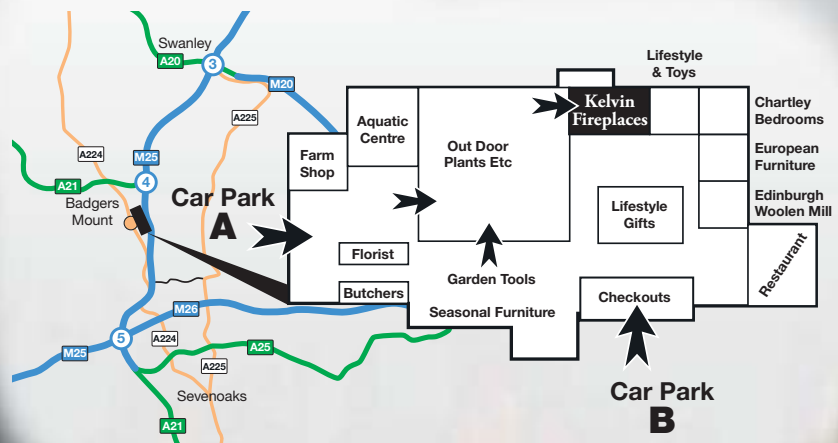
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